



Fiscal Year 2000

ANNUAL
REPORT
OF THE
DELAWARE
JUDICIARY



Table of Contents

Page

- 1** Message from Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey
- 2** Highlights and Developments
- 6** Fiscal Overview
- 7** Supreme Court
- 9** Court of Chancery
- 11** Superior Court
- 13** Family Court
- 15** Court of Common Pleas
- 17** Justice of the Peace Court
- 20** Alderman's Courts

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Message from Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey

E. NORMAN VEASEY
CHIEF JUSTICE

December 2000



SUPREME COURT OF DELAWARE

To the Governor, Members of the General Assembly, and Citizens of the State of Delaware:

It is my honor to present the 2000 Annual Report of the Delaware Judiciary. The Judiciary's theme for the past year has been to promote unity through collaborative effort. The courts have worked unselfishly in the intense coordination of the new New Castle County Courthouse, in the development of a proposed systemwide case and financial management system, and most recently, in the preparation of a unified budget request.

Under Administrative Directive No. 122, I established a Council of Court Administrators operating under the leadership of State Court Administrator, Dennis B. Jones. The purpose of this Council is to expand the concept of systemwide cooperation by having the State Court Administrator and court administrators meet on a regular basis to develop systemwide administrative initiatives and policies to promote innovation, efficiency, and consistency within the Judicial Branch. My goal, which will continue into next year, is to have all courts address administrative issues in a unified manner.

I want to give special thanks to the Governor and the General Assembly for their generous support in supplying funds necessary to build the new courthouse in Wilmington. This building represents a once in a lifetime opportunity for our citizens to have access to the court system in a state of the art building dedicated to meeting the needs of the citizens. For the first time, all the courts are developing processes, procedures and policies to perform centralized services such as filing, cashiering, security, administration, financial management, and case management in a coordinated and uniform fashion. Multiple courts locating in this new facility will enhance the Judiciary's ability to provide our citizens with swift and fair justice.

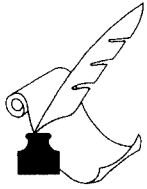
The Judiciary is also working together to provide greater assistance to both courts and litigants in cases in which litigants are representing themselves on a *pro se* basis. Funds have previously been allocated to develop a *pro se* center for the Family Court in Kent County. To help unrepresented litigants file procedurally and substantively accurate documents, the courts are working to establish *pro se* centers in each county where *pro se* litigants can access information concerning court procedures, rules, forms, and processes.

The State Judiciary, Council of Court Administrators and our dedicated and hard working judicial employees will continue to provide our individual and corporate citizens with a modern and reliable court system. We will uphold the values of a strong work ethic, integrity, efficiency, competence and promptness that the Delaware courts have established in earning their national reputation for excellence.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "E. Norman Veasey".

Highlights and Developments



FY 2000 LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

There were multiple legislative initiatives in FY 2000, which impact the Judiciary. Highlighted below are those initiatives which were passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by the Governor.

House Joint Resolution 31 – Recommends the abolishment of the Register in Chancery as an elected office and will enable the Court of Chancery to select its own Register in Chancery.

House Bill 683 – Ensures that individuals have the opportunity for a judicial hearing prior to having their name placed on the child abuse registry. It also provides for the expungement of the names of individuals who have been placed on the registry in error.

House Bill 593 – This is the first leg of the Constitutional amendment that creates the position of Senior Judge.

House Bill 540 – Modernizes and replaces the Foster Child Review Act with the Child Placement Review Act and broadens the review process.

House Bill 492 – The Uniform Electronic Transactions Act is a procedural act that provides the framework for creating enforceable electronic contracts.

House Bill 404 – Creates the Office of Child Advocate to assist the Child Protection Accountability Commission in protecting Delaware's children.

House Bill 355 – Adds two additional judgeships to the Family Court for Kent and Sussex Counties.

House Bill 302 – Changes the title of the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts to the State Court Administrator in order to emphasize that the position carries statewide responsibilities and is consistent with titles used to describe equivalent positions in other states.

House Bill 213 – Updates Delaware's truancy laws.

House Bill 126 – This is the second leg of the constitutional amendment providing that persons convicted of certain felonies would have their right to vote restored upon being pardoned or five years after the expiration of their sentences.

Senate Bill 426 – Clarifies certain restrictions upon the eligibility requirements for probation before judgment and ensures that only first-time offenders or infrequent offenders will be admitted to the program.

Senate Bill 415 – Amends the current Court Appointed Special Advocate and the Office of the Child Advocate statutes to ensure representation of a child's best interest in every child welfare proceeding.

Senate Bill 392 – Amends the current termination of parental rights statute to permit termination of parental rights where abandonment has occurred regardless of whether the abandonment is intentional and provided that specific findings are made.

Senate Bill 368 – This is the first leg of a constitutional amendment that provides for an integrated Register in Chancery and is related to House Joint Resolution 31 previously mentioned.

Senate Bill 350 – This enabling legislation is a companion bill to restoration of felon's voter's rights.

Senate Bill 329 – Extends the statute of limitations on crimes when the prosecution is based upon DNA testing. The bill also allows overturning convictions if forensic DNA testing, which was not available at the time of trial, now establishes the innocence of the convicted person.

Senate Bill 310 – Expands pre-judgment interest to cases involving court actions.

Senate Bill 206 – Adds two additional judgeships to the Court of Common Pleas for Kent and Sussex Counties.

Senate Bill 99 – Provides for full faith and credit to domestic violence protective orders issued from other states.

Highlights and Developments



COURT FACILITIES

New Castle County Courthouse: Significant progress continued toward the completion of the New Castle County Courthouse in Wilmington. The project is on time and within budget with an expected completion date of September 2, 2002. The Executive Committee established by the FY 1998 Bond Bill continues to oversee this building project. The Executive Committee is composed of the co-chairs of the Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Improvement programs, respective chairs of the Senate and House Judiciary committees, two members of the Judiciary appointed by the Chief Justice and three members of the Executive Branch who are the Secretary of Administrative Services, the Director of Facilities Management and the State Budget Director. The FY 2001 Bond Bill appropriated \$32,043,000 to finish the construction of this multi-year project.

Kent County Courthouse: Planning and evaluation for the state needs of the Judiciary in Kent County continued through FY 2000. A master plan was recommended that includes the acquisition of the Kent County Courthouse along with a multi-phase approach to the expansion and renovation of the facility. The FY 2001 Capital Bond Bill contains epilogue language which directs the Secretary of Administrative Services to evaluate the purchase of the O'Brien Building. A plan and recommendation regarding the O'Brien Building are to be submitted to the co-chairs of the Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Improvements by January 31, 2001.

Sussex County Courthouse: Work continues on renovations of the Sussex County Courthouse. Substantial completion of the court annex building was accomplished. The law library is scheduled to move into the annex with other court services in the near future.

Justice of the Peace Court: In FY 2000, the Justice of the Peace Court system was able to secure land in order to relocate a combined Court 5 and 6 in the Blainington-Milford area. This new site will enable the court to expand its hours of service to both Kent and Sussex Counties, and enhance the court's ability to deliver services effectively.

AUTOMATED SENTENCING ORDER PROJECT

In May 2000, the Superior Court of Delaware began issuing sentence orders statewide using a new Automated Sentencing Order Project (ASOP) to streamline criminal justice. In cooperation with the Judicial Information Center and the Department of Correction, ASOP went into production in December 1999 in Kent County, in January 2000 in Sussex County and full statewide production in May 2000.

The ASOP application enables Court issued sentence orders to be transmitted to other agencies and courts throughout the State almost simultaneously with a judge's order. Previously, it often took days or weeks to disseminate sentencing information to all criminal justice agencies. Sentencing data is electronically filed and transferred within minutes to prisons and other agencies, defendants receive a complete copy of their sentencing order in the courtroom, and criminal histories are immediately updated for courts and law enforcement agencies.

Delaware has become the first State to implement such a broad reaching sentence order system and the results are impressive. Updated criminal records are available at the time of sentencing. With the click of a button, the judge can view the criminal history of the defendant. Prison authorities will receive the order electronically before the defendant arrives for incarceration. Similarly, the Probation and Parole Department will now have an order on file in advance of a defendant appearing to begin probation. Police officers on patrol will have current information, and judges will be able to see whether a capias or warrant is active on a defendant.

The system was demonstrated at a Justice of the Peace Court retreat in September 2000 and at a Criminal Justice Council/DELJIS retreat in October 2000. It was also featured at the Knowledge Fair of the Mid-Atlantic Associations for Court Managers in Ocean City, Maryland, in October 1999.

Highlights and Developments

THE CHILD PLACEMENT REVIEW BOARD

Judicial Annual Report on The Foster Care Review Board and Its Successor, The Child Placement Review Board

OVERVIEW

The Foster Care Review Board (FCRB), now the Child Placement Review Board (CPRB), enters its third decade of service to the children of Delaware with an updated mandate, new and growing partnerships in the public sector, and broad resources in the form of a professional staff and review committees of trained volunteers. In addition, the FCRB's new name, the Child Placement Review Board, reflects today's scope and charter.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Legislation

The name, powers, and privileges of the Board were substantially changed when HB 540 was passed and signed into law by Governor Carper. This legislation takes the place of 31 Del. C. Section 38, et seq., which established the Foster Care Review Board in 1978. One advance of the law is the combination of two parallel review systems. Initially, the Foster Care Review Board was charged with reviewing all foster care cases handled by the Division of Family Services (DFS). The Board had also conducted independent reviews of cases handled by Youth Rehabilitative Services (YRS). Because these two review systems are now combined, this change has been reflected by a new name, the Child Placement Review Board.

Interaction with the Family Court system

Completion of the Court Improvement Project (CIP) has opened the door to much more effective partnerships between the courts and agencies having standing in cases relating to a child's welfare. The findings and recommendations from the CPRB review committees will now become part of a child's Family Court record.

Training

CPRB staff members received in-house training on the provisions and implications of changes in federal law. This training allowed them to support the work of review committees accurately. With approximately

100 volunteers serving on review committees, training is a priority for the CPRB.

Relationships

To achieve its goal of timely and thorough reviews for children in the care of the State, the Child Placement Review Board works in conjunction with an array of judicial and social service agencies, such as DFS, YRS, Child Mental Health (CMH), Family Court, the leadership of the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program, community-based service agencies, and the Office of Child Advocate. Establishing and maintaining good working relationships is an accomplishment that is central to the working of the CPRB and to its effectiveness in serving Delaware's children.

Ivyane Davis Scholarships

Scholarship funds are allocated by the General Assembly on an annual basis, and they are awarded by the CPRB. For the 2000 fiscal year, \$31,544 was distributed to nine students at a total of seven institutions. Awards ranged from \$1,440 to \$4,000. One student completed post-secondary education under this program and is ready to enter the workforce. The Ivyane D.F. Davis Scholarship Fund continues to be a viable means of supporting the efforts of young people who have been in foster care, matching their motivation and achievement with funding to meet their educational goals.

Child Placement Review Board Annual Statistics		F-Y 2000
Reviews Conducted	1,751	
Children in Care	1,570	
Unduplicated Children Reviewed	998	
Unreviewed Children in Care*	577	

*Children in care less than five months are not reviewed by the CPRB.

Highlights and Developments

CERTIFIED COURT INTERPRETER'S PROGRAM

Language barriers are preventing millions of non-English speaking Americans from receiving equal access to the judicial system. During Fiscal Year 2000, the Administrative Office of the Courts received a \$10,000 grant from the Criminal Justice Council to continue to expand the Certified Court Interpreter's Program, which is designed to provide qualified interpreters to meet the legal needs of Delaware's growing ethnic populations.

Two orientation sessions were held statewide for 60 prospective interpreters. Phase II of the Spanish test for consecutive interpreting was held in October 1999. Three applicants were tested, and no one passed. Testing in both Phase I and Phase II will be conducted in November and December 2000.

The Delaware Supreme Court, in the Diaz decision issued in December 1999, remanded a case back to the Superior Court because a certified court interpreter was not used during police interrogations. This decision resulted in the need to increase the number of training sessions during FY01 to accommodate those police officers that previously served as interpreters.

A request for \$15,500 in funding has been submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly for continuation of the Certified Court Interpreter's Program in FY01. During the annual meeting of the National Consortium of Certified Court Interpreter Program in November 1999, Chief Magistrate Patricia W. Griffin was elected chair for a term of one year.



STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

During fiscal year 2000, the Staff Training and Development Program offered thirteen different computer software training classes to judicial branch staff. Training topics were also offered in: legal research, new staff orientation, the Family Medical Leave Act, avoiding giving legal advice on the job and conferences for court security staff and court clerks. In addition to those classes, the Program provided funding for 11 court managers/supervisors to attend State Personnel's Frontline Leadership training program, as well as assisted with funding a two-day conference for Family Court Mediators.

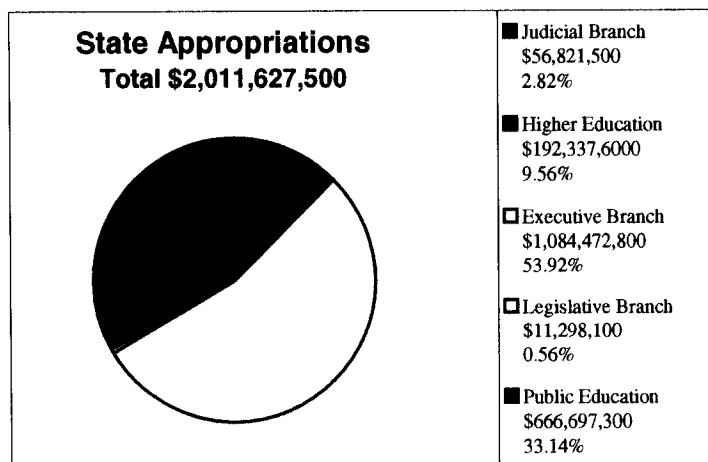
On June 27, 2000, Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey issued a directive mandating all non-judicial staff of Delaware courts and Judicial Branch agencies complete six hours of training per fiscal year. In that directive, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is charged with tracking all training programs attended by non-judicial staff, issuing an annual report to staff and supervisors and publishing annually a curriculum designed to improve the knowledge, skills and abilities of non-judicial staff of Delaware courts and Judicial Branch agencies.

The Staff Training and Development Program is managed by the Training and Staff Development Officer in the AOC. Liaisons from each of the six state courts and two representatives of Judicial Branch agencies, as well as staff of the AOC, serve on the Staff Training Advisory Board. The Board identifies and coordinates staff training initiatives.

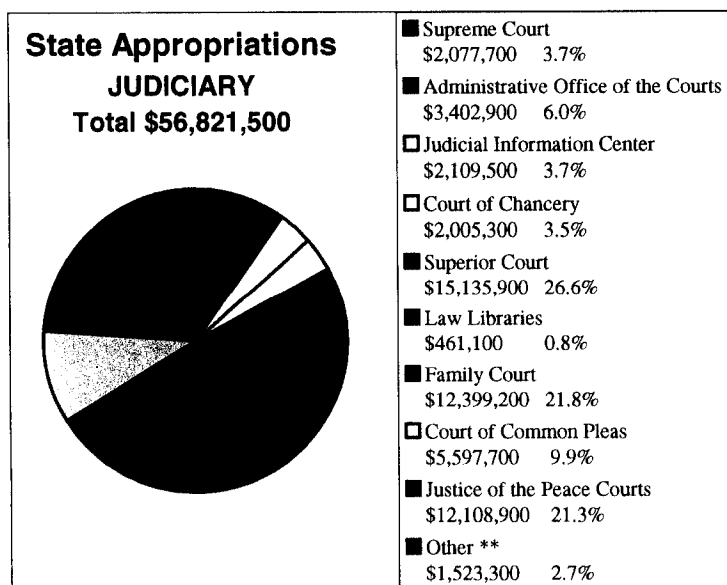
COURSE/PROGRAM	SESSIONS	PARTICIPANTS
Computer software training-- includes 13 courses	45	175
Orientation for New Court Employees	2	90
What Every Supervisor Should Know about the Family Medical Leave Act	1	15
Court Security Conference	1	58
Court Clerks Conference	1	73
Legal Research for Bailiffs	3	14
How to Avoid Giving Legal Advice on the Job	2	19
TOTALS	55	444

Fiscal Overview

DELAWARE GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS*
FISCAL YEAR 2000
STATE APPROPRIATIONS — TOTAL: \$2,011,627,500



DELAWARE GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS*
FISCAL YEAR 2000
STATE APPROPRIATIONS — JUDICIARY: \$56,821,500



*The chart reflects state general fund monies only. In addition to those amounts, the Supreme Court received \$65,500, the Family Court received \$2,723,700, the Court of Common Pleas received \$30,700 and the Violent Crimes Compensation Board received \$2,196,900 in appropriated special funds.

**Other: Public Guardian (\$386,200), Office of State Court Collections Enforcement (\$419,600), Child Placement Review Board (\$408,800), Educational Surrogate Program (\$68,700) and the Office of the Child Advocate (\$240,000).

Source: 140th General Assembly, House Bill 400.

Supreme Court

In the past fiscal year, the Delaware Supreme Court decided over 500 appeals by written opinion or order. A Supreme Court decision by order is often as comprehensive as a decision in opinion format and such orders are regularly cited as authoritative. The Court's jurisdiction is broad and often the issues before the Court are complex, and the decisions of the Court in such cases are of national or international significance.

Despite a record number of filings, the Court continues to decide cases within an average time of 33.3 days, well under the ninety-day standard from submission date to final decision date. By providing fair, efficient and prompt disposition of appeals, the Court's goal of maintaining the public's trust and confidence in our judicial institutions is met.

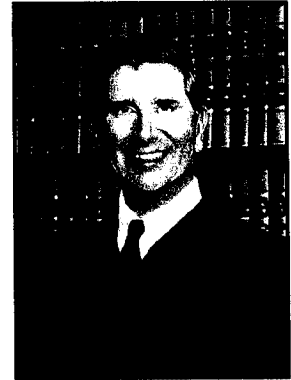
The composition of the Court changed during FY 2000. Justice Maurice A. Hartnett, III retired from the Court on June 30, 2000. His retirement closes a long and distinguished career of judicial service. The Honorable Myron T. Steele took the oath of office as a Justice of the Court on July 28, 2000. Justice Steele previously served as a Kent County Resident Judge of the Superior Court and, most recently, as a Vice Chancellor in the Court of Chancery.

There was a change in the leadership of the Administrative Office

of the Courts. With the concurrence of the Justices and the Executive Committee, I selected Dennis B. Jones as our new State Court Administrator. He previously served as Chief Deputy Director of the California Administrative Office of the Courts.

On August 5, 1999, I took office as President of the Conference of Chief Justices. The Conference is the primary representative of the state courts, providing them with national leadership and a national voice in the administration of justice. The two primary goals for the Conference during the past year were: (1) to meet the challenges to state courts by expanding federal activity and (2) to find ways that state judiciaries can achieve "best practices." On November 12-13, 1999, in Wilmington, I chaired a Joint Session of the Boards of the Directors of the Conference of Chief Justices, of the Conference of State Court Administrators and of the National Center for State Courts. This session was designated as an Advance on Achieving Excellence in Judicial Administration. The goal of the Advance was to commence the process for identifying "best practices" and how to disseminate information about these practices for implementation. The Advance has been recognized as a success and has led to a national Best Practices Institute.

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E. Norman Veasey
Chief Justice

By providing fair, efficient and prompt disposition of appeals, the Court's goal of maintaining the public's trust and confidence in our judicial institutions is met.

FISCAL YEAR 2000 TOTAL CASES CASELOAD SUMMARY						
	Pending 6/30/99	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/00	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle	142	273	240	175	+33	+23.2%
Kent	144	317	298	163	+19	+13.2%
Sussex	14	66	61	19	+5	+35.7%
STATE	300	656	599	357	+57	+19.0%

Supreme Court

Beginning in April 2000, access to non-confidential appeal documents filed in the Court since January 2000 is available on the Internet through the Virtual Docket. All filings are available online within 24 hours of filing with the Court. Furthering its commitment to the public, the Court has greatly improved its website over the last year. Opinions and orders are now placed on line within three days of a decision. The site includes the calendar for oral arguments, rules, forms, administrative directives and the most current news releases. I encourage you to visit us at <http://courts.state.de.us/supreme>.

On April 4, 2000, the Court held a special session in the new Ruby R. Vale Moot Courtroom at Widener Law School. The justices sat *en Banc* (all five justices) for the arguments in the newly-renovated Legal Information Center on the Delaware campus. During my address at the

dedication of the new courtroom, I announced that one of the Court's argument days each year would be conducted in the courtroom in keeping with a nationwide initiative of law-related education to enhance public trust and confidence in the judicial system.

The construction of the new New Castle County Courthouse in Wilmington continues to move forward on schedule. The Governor and the General Assembly have been most generous in providing funds necessary to build this new courthouse as well as funding for courthouses in Kent and Sussex Counties. The successful completion of these projects will ensure that our citizens' legal needs can be met in secure and state of the art facilities in all three counties to further enhance public trust and confidence.



Supreme Court

Seated (left to right):
Justice Joseph T. Walsh
Justice Carolyn Berger

Standing (left to right):
Justice Myron T. Steele
Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey
Justice Randy J. Holland

JUDICIAL BRANCH WEBSITE: <http://courts.state.de.us>

The Judicial Branch website is continuing to improve by frequently adding new features. From the homepage, a visitor can link to each of the courts, employment opportunities in the judicial branch, juror information or visit the Arms of the Court. If you have not stopped by recently, visit our site at <http://courts.state.de.us>.



Court of Chancery

This year, the ranks of the Court of Chancery have again been reduced by an appointment to the State's highest court. Upon the retirement of Justice (and former Vice Chancellor) Hartnett, Governor Carper appointed Vice Chancellor Myron T. Steele to the Delaware Supreme Court. His replacement has yet to be named.

The General Assembly this year took a major step toward providing this Court with a unified court clerk's office under the Chancellor's control. The Court of Chancery remains the only State court without authority over its clerical staff; currently, the Register in Chancery for each county is an elected office, and each Register appoints their own staff and follows their own procedures. While the county Registers have, throughout this Court's history, provided excellent service in each county, the growth in the Court's docket, the increase in complexity of cases before the Court and the growing availability of electronic communication have made the county Register system an anachronism. Recognizing this, the General Assembly adopted the first leg of a constitutional amendment, sponsored by the Court, which if passed again next year, will result in a unified Register in Chancery office under the Court's direct supervision. This will allow standard and modernized procedures for case filing and docketing. It will also enable the

Court to continue to improve and expedite its management of cases. A unified Register's office will facilitate the use of Internet technology to make dockets and pleadings from all three counties available to practitioners and the public, and will ease the transition to electronic filing, which approaches on the horizon.

As the Court looks forward to occupying new quarters currently under construction in New Castle County, its prospects for moving to a permanent home in Sussex County, in the short-term, remain clouded. The State has acquired a parcel off the Circle, and plans for construction of a courthouse on the site are in development. Meanwhile, the Court's old quarters in the Sussex County Courthouse and the Family Court Building have yielded to the expansion of the Family Court and Court of Common Pleas, and the Court of Chancery Chambers have relocated, again on a temporary basis, to the Sabo Building on Market Street.

The next few months and years will bring a new Vice Chancellor in Kent County, new courthouses in Sussex and New Castle Counties, and a new Statewide court clerk's system. Clearly, many changes are coming to the Court, but they are changes that will allow continued improvement in the administration of justice.

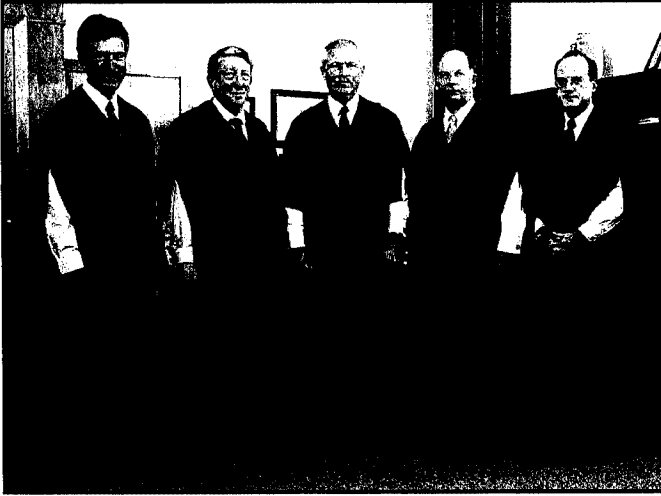


William B. Chandler III
Chancellor

Clearly, many changes are coming to the Court, but they are changes that will allow continued improvement in the administration of justice.

FISCAL YEAR 2000 TOTAL CASES - CASLOAD SUMMARY						
	Pending 6/30/99	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/00	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle	7,762	3,220	3,299	7,683	-79	-1.0%
Kent	2,591	482	399	2,674	+83	+3.2%
Sussex	2,905	740	669	2,976	+71	+2.4%
STATE	13,258	4,442	4,367	13,333	+75	+0.6%

Court of Chancery



Court of Chancery

Standing (left to right):

Vice Chancellor Stephen P. Lamb
Vice Chancellor Jack B. Jacobs
Chancellor William B. Chandler III
Vice Chancellor Myron T. Steele
Vice Chancellor Leo E. Strine, Jr.

OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE

By Tania Culley, Child Advocate

Fiscal Year 2000 was an important year for our abused and neglected children as the Office of the Child Advocate became Delaware's newest State agency. The Office has been charged with safeguarding the welfare of Delaware's children through education, system reform, public awareness, training, and legal representation of children. The Child Advocate began employment on February 7, 2000.

While the first few months were largely spent securing office space, furniture and supplies, and hiring staff, time was also devoted to drafting legislation detailing the rights and responsibilities of attorneys and Court Appointed Special Advocates in their representation of children's best interests in Family Court proceedings. That legislation was passed as Senate Bill 415 on June 30, 1999. With these laws, it is now clear what role a guardian *ad litem* has in a child welfare proceeding.

In the first five months of its operation, without the benefit of publicity or knowledge of the Office, the Office received referrals on 25 children.



Due to severely limited legal resources, only three of those children received the benefit of attorney guardian *ad litem* representation. Two of those children are represented by the Child Advocate, and a third child is represented by a member of the private bar. In addition, the Child Advocate submitted an *amicus curiae* brief in an important child welfare matter. Funding was approved for FY01 for the addition of a

full-time attorney to the Office, whose primary duty will be to represent the best interests of abused, neglected and dependent children in Family Court.

The Office looks forward to tackling its statutory mandates in Fiscal Year 2001, with the primary goals of the Office ensuring that: (1) every child's voice is heard in every court proceeding which affects their life; (2) every player in the child protection system has the necessary education and training to put a child's safety and well-being above all else; and (3) Delaware's child welfare laws reflect the needs of our children and are a model for the nation.

Superior Court

During this fiscal year, the Honorable Richard R. Cooch was appointed Resident Judge in New Castle County as the successor of Resident Judge Vincent A. Bifferato and the Honorable T. Henley Graves was appointed Resident Judge in Sussex County to succeed Resident Judge William Swain Lee. The Honorable E. Scott Bradley was appointed to fill the vacancy in Sussex County.

The Superior Court continues to apply a best commercial practices and customer service approach to improve our performance. This year we launched a comprehensive Web site (<http://courts.state.de.us/superior>) which provides helpful information to the legal community and the public. Some examples of the information provided: our history, information on e-litigation, our nationally known Drug Court, juror orientation, court calendars, case management plans, job postings, rules, forms, a self-help center, and victim information. Our web site was featured in the national e-magazine Civic.com.

To provide for the safety and security of all visitors, we completed the transition to a single public entrance in each courthouse. Each public entrance is staffed by security personnel who screen for weapons.

The Court's nationwide reputation as a problem-solving innovator was recognized again when it was selected by the U.S. Department of Justice as one of nine pilot sites in the country to test the concept of Re-entry Courts. Re-entry Courts focus on the need to create accountability systems and support networks for returning offenders to increase the chances of successful reintegration into their communities. We are testing two approaches to Re-entry: one targets returning domestic violence offenders in Sussex County and the other deals with the general population of returning offenders in New Castle County.

The Court implemented the far-reaching Automated Sentencing Order Project (ASOP). ASOP is designed to support Delaware's sentencing process by standardizing the format of sentence orders, accelerate the transmission of sentencing information to the criminal history database and to other criminal justice agencies, support the judicial decision-making process, allow for data entry and sentence order generation in the courtroom, and cutting back on the use of paper by sending realtime electronic court orders to the Department of Correction.

(continued on next page)



**Henry duPont Ridgely
President Judge**

Our vision is to be the Superior Court with the most Superior Service in the nation. Our mission is to provide Superior Service to the public in pursuit of justice.

FISCAL YEAR 2000 TOTAL CASES - CASELOAD SUMMARY

	Pending 6/30/99	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/00	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle	11,110	12,176	11,452	11,834	+724	+6.5%
Kent	1,874	3,014	3,104	1,784	-90	-4.8%
Sussex	1,514	2,857	2,666	1,705	+191	+12.6%
STATE	14,498	18,047	17,222	15,323	+825	+5.7%

Superior Court

The Court continued its efforts to improve the overall effectiveness of the criminal justice system by inter-agency collaboration. We are now conducting contempt hearings in welfare fraud cases where the defendant has failed to make restitution payments to the State. Working in cooperation with the Division of Audit and Recovery of the Department of Health and Social Services, these

contempt hearings have been expanded.

The Court expanded its initiatives to improve the collection rate of unpaid Court assessments. Court staff are serving as faculty at the training academy for new Probation and Parole Officers. We also provide training in the use of the Court's case management system to Records Office personnel at Gander Hill prison.

We started accepting payments to the Court by credit cards in Kent County to make the collection process more efficient and to speed up the return of restitution funds to victims of crime.

Finally, we refined our vision, mission and core values through the collaborative efforts of Superior Court Judges and staff from across Delaware. Our vision is to be the Superior Court with the most

Superior Service in the nation. Our mission is to provide Superior Service to the public in pursuit of justice. We have agreed that our core values as an organization are UNITED which stands for unity, neutrality, integrity, timeliness, equality and dedication. We are committed to building on the quality of justice and public service for which the Superior Court of Delaware is well known here and across the nation.



Superior Court

Seated (left to right)

Associate Judge John E. Babiarz, Jr.
Resident Judge Vincent A. Bifferato*
President Judge Henry du Pont Ridgely
Associate Judge Richard S. Gebelein
Resident Judge William Swain Lee**

Middle (left to right)

Associate Judge Charles H. Toliver, IV
Associate Judge Jerome O. Herlihy
Associate Judge Susan C. Del Pesco
Associate Judge William T. Quillen
Associate Judge Norman A. Barron
Resident Judge T. Henley Graves
Associate Judge Carl Goldstein

Back (left to right)

Associate Judge William L. Witham, Jr.
Associate Judge William C. Carpenter, Jr.
Resident Judge Richard R. Cooch
Associate Judge Haile L. Alford
Associate Judge Fred S. Silverman
Resident Judge James T. Vaughn, Jr.
Associate Judge Richard F. Stokes

*Judge Richard R. Cooch succeeded Judge Vincent A. Bifferato as Resident Judge as of May 10, 2000.

**Judge E. Scott Bradley succeeded Judge William Swain Lee as of April 7, 2000.

Family Court

Every organization in order to move forward requires a plan. In January 2000, Family Court welcomed the Twenty-First century with the publication of its plan in the form of the Family Court Performance Standards. Modeled after the Trial Court Performance Standards which have been endorsed by numerous national legal and judicial associations and by courts throughout the country, the Family Court Performance Standards are focused on the unique jurisdiction of the family courts as we address issues related to children and families, victims of domestic violence and victims of juvenile crime.

These standards represent points of reference against which we will begin to measure our responsibility to serve the citizens of our State. It is against the backdrop of these standards that we will:

- Build new programs such as those designed to address children in placement or to serve the needs of self represented litigants.
- Analyze processes to ensure that every case is heard as expeditiously as possible but never at the expense of the rule of justice and fairness.
- Ask the public to better understand our responsibilities and the work we do.

Since publication, the Family Court Performance Standards have received national attention and have become a part of the National Center for State Court's training regimen that is offered to

the courts throughout this country and other nations. Indeed, the Family Court Performance Standards have permitted Delaware to set the example of how a family court should work and how its performance should be perceived. We have set the bar high for Delaware's Family Court. The citizens of our State deserve and should expect nothing less.

Beyond the publication of these standards but in keeping with them, the Court made substantial progress in the realization of its goals in FY2000 particularly in three specific areas, namely, case processing improvements, the provision of services for the self represented, and the institution of enhanced judicial management of key caseloads.

Case Processing: The Criminal Case Management System (CMS) was implemented in February, 2000. This system served to eliminate many of the paper related processes and focused on reducing delays at the earliest hearing stages. Combined with the establishment of a corps of criminal case managers, the management of criminal cases in Family Court made several strides toward improving the timeliness of its actions.

On the civil side, several modifications to the FAMIS system will continue to allow us to better track information on our cases, the litigants, and all participants. Components of our civil information

(continued on next page)



Vincent J. Popplitt
Chief Judge

With the help of our judges, commissioners, administrative team and staff, we have made strides to determine our direction as we commence the new century.

FISCAL YEAR 2000 TOTAL CASES - CASeload SUMMARY

	Pending 6/30/99	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/00	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle	7,715	34,709	36,464	5,960	-1,755	-22.7%
Kent	1,880	10,687	10,294	2,273	+393	+20.9%
Sussex	2,980	11,880	11,757	3,103	+123	+4.1%
STATE	12,575	57,276	58,515	11,336	-1,239	-9.9%

Family Court

system have been the focus of several national conferences on family courts in the past six months.

Services for the Self Represented: Throughout the year, the Court has spent numerous hours meeting with representatives throughout the legal community to develop a process designed to assist the 72% of the litigants who elect to represent themselves. Our Family Court Resource Centers should be operative in Kent and Sussex Counties by the end of the fiscal year. Key components of the program include easily understood written materials, expanded Internet capabilities, assistance to indigents, and the availability of limited representation for those who seek it.

Caseload Management: Beginning in Sussex County, the Court is moving toward the Statewide implementation of the recommendations of the Court Improvement Project dealing with children in placement. Central to this effort is the hands on management of this caseload by the assigned judge. The management of those cases by the judge results in clear expectations being established for all parties, and hearings being scheduled at specified intervals with target dates for permanency determinations. The ultimate beneficiaries of this intensive judicial case management will be the children who will receive the undivided attention of the Court.

With the help of our judges, commissioners, administrative team and staff, we have made strides to determine our direction as we commence the new century. I am confident that we will continue to do better tomorrow than we are doing today in discharging the special public trust that we hold.



Family Court

Seated (left to right) Associate Judge Aida Waserstein, Associate Judge Kenneth M. Millman, Chief Judge Vincent J. Poppiti, Associate Judge Peggy L. Ableman, Associate Judge Jay H. Conner

Standing (left to right) Associate Judge Alison Whitmer Tumas, Associate Judge Mark D. Buckworth, Associate Judge William N. Nicholas, Associate Judge Peter B. Jones, Associate Judge William L. Chapman, Jr., Associate Judge Chandlee Johnson Kuhn, Associate Judge Barbara D. Crowell, Associate Judge William J. Walls, Jr.

Not pictured: Associate Judge Mardi F. Pyott

Judicial Branch Employee of the Year: *Mitzi Boddy*

Congratulations to Mitzi Boddy, the 1999 recipient of the Judicial Branch Employee of the Year Award. Mitzi is the Sussex County Prothonotary for Superior Court. Ms. Boddy was nominated by the Superior Court for her leadership and personal contribution to the Automated Sentencing Order Project (ASOP). Her tireless effort on this important project has benefited not only the Superior Court and criminal justice agencies but also other Delaware courts.

Her work on ASOP is only one example of her dedication to the administration of justice. According to Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey, "Mitzi's leadership on total quality management initiatives within Superior Court also reflects her commitment to the principles of service to the citizens of Delaware, and has motivated others to help assure the mission of the court system is carried out."

Since Fiscal Year 1991, the Judicial Branch Employee of the Year award has been presented annually to one staff member selected for his or her outstanding public service. Chief Justice Veasey presented Mitzi with the award at an annual dinner held in May 2000. Congratulations and thanks to Mitzi for your enthusiastic hard work.



Court of Common Pleas

This was another year of growth for the Court of Common Pleas. Judges and staff were added, and the caseload increased making the Court busier than ever before.

On April 28, 2000, the Court welcomed a new Judge for Sussex County, the Honorable Kenneth S. Clark, Jr. He is the first Native American to hold a judgeship in the State of Delaware. His appointment brought the total number of judges serving in the Court Statewide to eight.

On May 1, 2000, Judge Alfred Fraczkowski, formerly Chief Judge of the Municipal Court, retired from the Court of Common Pleas after 31 years of service in the Delaware Judiciary. Judge Fraczkowski joined the Court of Common Pleas upon the merger with the Municipal Court in 1998.

The Strategic Planning Committee has begun compiling an Employee Policies and Procedures Manual for all employees. This project will be a work in progress.

After a year and a half, a long awaited reclassification project for Court clerical staff was finally approved. A number of our staff were reclassified bringing them into line with other courts in title and pay for the same jobs performed. At present, the State Personnel Office is working with the courts to combine job descriptions across the board. This is an important first step in the development of a career

ladder for our clerk positions.

Another exciting initiative for the Court is the Drug Diversion Program, a court-supervised, comprehensive program for non-violent offenders. This is a voluntary program that includes regular court appearances before a Judge, participation in substance abuse education, regular drug testing, and, if necessary, treatment. Fiscal Year 2000 saw 392 people go through the program, with a success rate of 83%. A federally funded grant awarded to the University of Pennsylvania is currently studying the role of Judicial Status hearings in the drug court in the Court of Common Pleas. This is the first study of this nature in the nation.

The Court of Common Pleas is preparing to institute a Mediation Program (dispute resolution) with federal funding through the Criminal Justice Council. Cases eligible for mediation will be identified at or before arraignment and referred to trained mediators. The three-year program will provide a viable alternative to criminal prosecution in certain cases and is expected to aid the Court in reducing some of its large backlog of criminal cases. The Delaware Center for Justice and the Center of Community Justice will assist the Court with this program.



Alex J. Smalls
Chief Judge

An exciting initiative for the Court is the Drug Diversion Program, a court-supervised, comprehensive program for non-violent offenders. This is a voluntary program that includes regular court appearances before a Judge, participation in substance abuse education, regular drug testing, and treatment.



FISCAL YEAR 2000 TOTAL CASES - CASeload SUMMARY						
	Pending 6/30/99	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/00	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle	23,581	38,861	34,660	27,782	+4,201	+17.8%
Kent	5,174	17,150	17,018	5,306	+132	+2.6%
Sussex	5,786	22,636	21,530	6,892	+1,106	+19.1%
STATE	34,541	78,647	73,208	39,980	+5,439	+15.7%

Court of Common Pleas



Court of Common Pleas

Seated (left to right)

Judge Merrill C. Trader
Chief Judge Alex J. Smalls
Judge William C. Bradley, Jr.

Standing (left to right)

Judge Kenneth S. Clark, Jr.
Judge Rosemary B. Beauregard
Judge Jay Paul James
Judge John K. Welch

CONTINUING JUDICIAL EDUCATION



Through the Continuing Judicial Education Program administered by the Administrative Office of the Courts, the judiciary continued the practice of attending education programs on both national and local levels.

The judiciary met in Rehoboth for a two-day program entitled "Advanced Judicial Writing" featuring Bryan Garner, Esquire, a nationally prominent speaker from Dallas, Texas. In March 2000, the judiciary met at the Buena Vista State Conference Center to discuss "Our Newest Customer: The *Pro-Se* Litigant". These litigants have caused a dramatic increase in the courts' workload. Charisse Hutton, Esquire, Director of the New Britain, Connecticut Court Service Center, spoke on issues relating to operations of a *pro se* center. The judiciary also received updates on deferred compensation by State Treasurer Jack Markell and judicial pensions by Pension Administrator David Craik.

The annual Bench and Bar Conference was held June 7, 2000 at the Wyndham Plaza Hotel in Wilmington. The educational program included

Multi-Disciplinary Practice with Steven C. Krane, Esquire, President-Elect of the New York State Bar Association; *Ethics 2000* with Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey and Larry J. Fox, Esquire; *Civil Trials: Judge or Jury?* with Professor Neil Vidmar and Judge John E. Babiarz, Jr.; *Civil Jury Trials – The Proposed 5th/6th Constitution Amendment* with Barry I. Guerke, Esquire, Robert B. Young, Esquire and Professor Valerie Hans; and the *Advantage of Delaware as the Situs of a Trust* with Richard W. Nenno, Esquire and Thomas R. Pulsifer, Esquire.

In October 1999, Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey was a featured speaker at the National Symposium on the Future of Judicial Branch Education in St. Louis, Missouri. The Chief Justice noted the importance of educating not only the judiciary but court staff as well and challenged the audience to explore different types of learning methods such as distance learning. Following the Symposium, Franny Maguire, Judicial Educator in the Administrative Office of the Courts, was installed as President of the National Association of State Judicial Educators.

Justice of the Peace Court

Justice of the Peace Court Webpage. Fiscal year 2000 brought the inauguration of the Justice of the Peace Court's webpage, <http://courts.state.de.us/jpcourt/>, which provides information about court procedures, the court generally, locations of court sites, and copies of court forms, the Chief Magistrate's legal memoranda and policy directives, and the Court's rules, including its new civil rules, which became effective on July 15, 2000.

Continuing Legal Education for Judges. Continuing legal education topics in FY 00 for the judges included the Court's new civil rules, probable cause, driving under the influence, ethics, and domestic violence. In addition, judges who serve as instructors in the Court's Basic Legal Education (BLE) program attended a two day train the trainer program, in conjunction with the redesigning of the BLE program to enhance the Court's ability to provide training to new judges. Twenty-eight of 57 judges presently sitting, or 50%, have completed the BLE program.

Strategic Planning Highlights. Other FY 00 Justice of the Peace Court highlights included the successful implementation of the civil case management program in the fall of 1999 (alleviating the frustrations associated with tracking and processing cases by hand), substantial efforts toward the establishment of a clerical career ladder, implementation of the

Court's records retention program, and other initiatives to implement recommendations of the National Center for State Courts study. For example, modifications to procedures for the Voluntary Assessment Center (VAC), the Court's mail-in traffic fine center, have helped reduce processing delays at the VAC, even given the VAC's dramatic caseload increase in FY 00. In addition, the Court has received a grant from the First State Quality Improvement Fund to conduct a staffing standards analysis for the civil courts, similar to the one performed for the JP criminal courts in FY 99.

Increases in Case Filings. Even considering efficiencies gained through civil automation and other strategic efforts, the Court continues to struggle to manage its burgeoning caseload. Its total case filings increased from 371,450 in FY 99 to 406,488 in FY 00, with the most significant increases occurring in New Castle County criminal courts (an additional 15,710 cases, or a 14% increase from last year), in Sussex County criminal courts (an additional 4,881 cases, or up 8% from last year) and in the Voluntary Assessment Center (an additional 14,782 cases, or up 11% from last year). This year's increase, when considered in conjunction with last year's increase, represents a 34% increase between FY 98 and FY 00 – or 94,813 additional case filings in FY 00.

(continued on next page)



**Patricia Walther Griffin
Chief Magistrate**

Justice of the Peace Court highlights included the successful implementation of the civil case management program, substantial efforts towards the establishment of a clerical career ladder, and implementation of the Court's records retention program.

FISCAL YEAR 2000 TOTAL CASES - CASELOAD SUMMARY						
	Pending 6/30/99	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/00	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
Criminal	38,152	376,895	380,354	34,693	-3,459	-9.1%
Civil	7,334	29,729	31,150	5,913	-1,421	-19.4%
STATE	45,486	406,624	411,504	40,606	-4,880	-10.7%

Justice of the Peace Court

as compared to FY 98 total case filings.

Capias Processing – Time Savings for Law Enforcement and Litigants. In considering ways to manage its caseload, the Court has looked at using videophone access to obtain a more equitable distribution of workload (using a videophone to direct arraignments and warrant processing to less overloaded JP Courts) and other methods to enhance its effectiveness. Another redistribution of workload, or the Court's change in policy which permitted JP Courts to handle other JP Courts' capiases, has continued to allow significant time savings for law enforcement, corrections and defendants by reducing travel time between courts. Prior to this policy, the police or correctional officer were required to transport a defendant to each JP Court in which the defendant had an outstanding capias; now, the first Court where the defendant is taken or appears through the use of the videophone usually handles all pending capiases. In FY 00, 6,243 JP Court capiases have been handled by courts other than the originating JP Court, saving thousands of hours of officers' travel time. The Court also handled 10,400 Court of Common Pleas capiases, 2,524 Family Court capiases, and 2,876 Superior Court capiases.

Justice of the Peace Court Award for Outstanding Judicial Service. The Honorable Bonita Lee was selected to receive the first annual Chief Justice's Award for Outstanding Judicial Service for the Justice of the Peace Court. This award was established by the Chief Justice to recognize Justices of the Peace who demonstrate outstanding judicial service, including demonstrated professionalism, sensitivity to litigants, witnesses, jurors and colleagues, strong work ethic, legal, analytical and writing skills, and teamwork. Judge Lee has served as Deputy Chief Magistrate for New Castle County since July 1998, and joined the Justice of the Peace Court in October 1990. She is committed to the highest professional standards and was recognized for her dignified and gracious presence, calming influence on litigants and fellow judges, impressive analytical and problem solving skills, and ability to manage a demanding administrative workload (court assignments and scheduling of 28 judges and 8 courts), along with her

judicial duties.

Justice of the Peace Court Employee of the Year. Willard Irwin, Justice of the Peace Court Clerk at Justice of the Peace Court No. 7 in Dover, was named Justice of the Peace Court 1999 Employee of the Year for his exceptional accomplishment, initiative and long and outstanding State service. Since beginning his commitment to serving the public, especially during his tenure as the midnight to 8 a.m. clerk in Dover, Will has demonstrated loyalty, perseverance, and has skillfully and courteously handled all court customers.



DELAWARE JUDGESHIPS

- Justice Maurice A. Harnett, III retired as a Justice of the Supreme Court on June 30, 2000.
- Sussex County Resident Judge William Swain Lee retired from the Superior Court on November 13, 1999.
- Sussex County Resident Judge T. Henley Graves took the oath of office as a Resident Judge for the Superior Court on January 19, 2000.
- New Castle County Resident Judge Vincent A. Bifferato retired from the Superior Court on March 1, 2000.
- Associate Judge E. Scott Bradley took the oath of office as a Superior Court Judge on April 7, 2000.
- New Castle County Resident Judge Richard R. Cooch took the oath of office as a Resident Judge of the Superior Court on May 10, 2000.
- Associate Judge Mardi F. Pyott took the oath of office as a Family Court Judge on March 31, 2000.
- Judge Alfred Fraczkowski retired from the Court of Common Pleas on April 28, 2000.
- Judge Kenneth S. Clark, Jr. took the oath of office as a Court of Common Pleas Judge on April 28, 2000.

Justice of the Peace Court



NEW CASTLE COUNTY

Seated from left:

Judge Wayne Hanby
 Judge Vernon Taylor
 Judge Nancy Roberts
 Judge Linda Gray
 Judge Rosalie Rutkowski
 Judge Katharine Ross
 Judge Marie Page

Judge Bonita Lee
 (Deputy Chief Magistrate)
 Judge Roberto Lopez

Standing from left:

Judge Paul Smith
 Judge James Tull
 Judge Kathleen Lucas
 Judge Clarence Bennett

Judge Roger Barton
 Judge Rosalind Toulson
 Judge Sean McCormack
 Judge Joseph Schiavi
 Judge Thomas Cole
 Judge David Skelley
 Judge Thomas Kenney
 Judge William Moser

Judge Laurence Fitchett,
 Judge Marilyn Letts
 Judge Thomas Brown
Not pictured:
 Judge Robert Armstrong
 Judge Stanley Petraschuk
 Judge Edward Poling



SUSSEX COUNTY

Seated from left:

Judge Jeni Coffelt
 Judge Marcealeate Ruffin
 Judge Sheila Blakely
 (Deputy Chief Magistrate)
 Judge Edward Davis
 Judge John O'Bier
 Judge William Brittingham
 Judge Margaret Barrett

Standing from left:

Judge John McKenzie
 Judge William Boddy
 Judge Richard Comly
 Judge John Martin
 Judge Joseph Melson
 Judge Howard William Mulvaney
 Judge Herman Hagan
 Judge William Hopkins
 Judge John Hudson
 Judge William Patrick Wood

Not pictured:

Judge Jana Mollohan
 Judge Terry Smith



KENT COUNTY

From left:

Judge Charles Stump
 (Deputy Chief Magistrate)
 Judge Harvey Leighty
 Judge Margaret Barrett,
 Judge Frederick Dewey
 Judge Russell Rash

Not pictured:

Judge Ernst Arndt
 Judge Karen Bundeck
 Judge Fred Lord
 Judge James Murray
 Judge Ellis Parrott
 Judge Agnes Pennella
 Judge Robert Wall

Alderman's Court

FISCAL YEAR 2000 TOTAL CASES LOAD SUMMARY						
	Pending 6/30/99	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/00	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
NEW CASTLE						
Newark	5,243	9,147	9,399	4,991	-252	-4.8%
Newport	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SUSSEX COUNTY						
Bethany Beach	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Delmar	579	830	1,021	388	-191	-33.0%
Dewey Beach	0	1,358	1,358	0	0	—
Laurel	272	2,102	2,098	276	+4	+1.5%
Ocean View	0	0	0	0	0	—
Rehoboth Beach	193	1,241	1,092	342	+149	+77.2%
STATE	6,287	14,678	14,968	5,997	-290	-4.6%

*The unit of count for criminal and traffic cases is the charge. For example, a defendant with three charges disposed of is counted as three dispositions.

Alderman Harold Britton Barber, *Bethany Beach*
 Alderman Francis J. Pryal, *Bethany Beach*
 Alderman David B. Striegel, *Delmar*
 Sr. Alderman Marvin Guberman, *Dewey Beach*
 Assistant Alderman Roger Mallet, *Dewey Beach*
 Alderman Paul H. Sheridan, *Laurel*

Chief Alderman Loreto P. Rufo, *Newark*
 Assistant Alderman Robert P. Welshmer, *Newark*
 Alderman Joyce Nolan, *Newport*
 Assistant Alderman Barry Newstadt, *Newport*
 Alderman Melanie Buchanan Nooney, *Ocean View*
 Alderman Michael J. DeFiore, *Rehoboth Beach*

CHIEF JUSTICE'S AWARDED FOR OUTSTANDING JUDICIAL SERVICE JUDGE JEROME O. HERLIHY

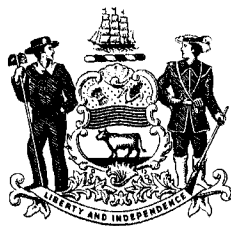
Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey presented the Fifth Annual Chief Justice's Award for Outstanding Judicial Service to Judge Jerome O. Herlihy of the Superior Court at a meeting of the Delaware Judicial Conference on September 30, 1999.

Judge William T. Quillen and Judge William C. Carpenter, Jr. nominated Judge Herlihy citing Judge Herlihy's conscientious performance of his judicial duties and his dedication to true case progress. Judge Herlihy is particularly distinguished for his effectiveness in helping to create the nationally prominent Drug Court, in reforming the Superior Court's work to establish a sharing of civil and criminal responsibilities, in

rewriting the criminal jury instructions, and in keeping his colleagues current on pending and recently enacted legislation.

The Chief Justice also noted Judge Herlihy's leadership in a number of administrative areas, including his current role as Chair of the Automated Sentence Order Committee, which is striving to change the sentencing process in all the criminal courts in Delaware. The Chief Justice echoed the sentiments of Judge Quillen by saying, "In an era of specialization, he is a true Superior Court Judge of the old school—he does it all. Judge Herlihy is a tireless constant in the push for excellence in the Judiciary."





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Fiscal Year 2000

STATISTICAL
REPORT
OF THE
DELAWARE
JUDICIARY



Table of Contents

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE	3
OVERVIEW OF THE DELAWARE COURT SYSTEM	
Introduction to the Delaware Court System	5
Appeals and Transfers Chart	6
Administrative Authority & Funding Chart	6
The Delaware Court System	7
FISCAL YEAR 2000 OVERVIEW	
Summary of Judicial Budgets	9
Court Generated Revenue	10
Government Appropriations	13
SUPREME COURT	15
COURT OF CHANCERY	23
SUPERIOR COURT	33
FAMILY COURT	57
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS	69
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT	71
ALDERMAN'S COURTS	91

Message from Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey

E. NORMAN VEASEY
CHIEF JUSTICE

December 2000



SUPREME COURT OF DELAWARE

To the Governor, Members of the General Assembly, and Citizens of the State of Delaware:

It is my honor to present the 2000 Annual Report of the Delaware Judiciary. The Judiciary's theme for the past year has been to promote unity through collaborative effort. The courts have worked unselfishly in the intense coordination of the new New Castle County Courthouse, in the development of a proposed systemwide case and financial management system, and most recently, in the preparation of a unified budget request.

Under Administrative Directive No. 122, I established a Council of Court Administrators operating under the leadership of State Court Administrator, Dennis B. Jones. The purpose of this Council is to expand the concept of systemwide cooperation by having the State Court Administrator and court administrators meet on a regular basis to develop systemwide administrative initiatives and policies to promote innovation, efficiency, and consistency within the Judicial Branch. My goal, which will continue into next year, is to have all courts address administrative issues in a unified manner.

I want to give special thanks to the Governor and the General Assembly for their generous support in supplying funds necessary to build the new courthouse in Wilmington. This building represents a once in a lifetime opportunity for our citizens to have access to the court system in a state of the art building dedicated to meeting the needs of the citizens. For the first time, all the courts are developing processes, procedures and policies to perform centralized services such as filing, cashiering, security, administration, financial management, and case management in a coordinated and uniform fashion. Multiple courts locating in this new facility will enhance the Judiciary's ability to provide our citizens with swift and fair justice.

The Judiciary is also working together to provide greater assistance to both courts and litigants in cases in which litigants are representing themselves on a *pro se* basis. Funds have previously been allocated to develop a *pro se* center for the Family Court in Kent County. To help unrepresented litigants file procedurally and substantively accurate documents, the courts are working to establish *pro se* centers in each county where *pro se* litigants can access information concerning court procedures, rules, forms, and processes.

The State Judiciary, Council of Court Administrators and our dedicated and hard working judicial employees will continue to provide our individual and corporate citizens with a modern and reliable court system. We will uphold the values of a strong work ethic, integrity, efficiency, competence and promptness that the Delaware courts have established in earning their national reputation for excellence.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'E. Norman Veasey'.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DELAWARE COURT SYSTEM



The Delaware judiciary is composed of the Supreme Court, the Court of Chancery, the Superior Court, the Family Court, the Court of Common Pleas, the Justice of the Peace Court, the Alderman's Courts, and related judicial agencies.

In terms of interrelationships among the courts, the Delaware Court system is similar to a pyramid. The Justice of the Peace Court and the Alderman's Courts represent the base of the pyramid and the Supreme Court the apex of the pyramid. As a litigant goes upward through the court system pyramid, the legal issues generally become more complex and, thus, more costly to litigate. For this reason, cases decided as close as possible to the entry level of the court system generally result in cost savings to the judiciary in resources used to handle the matters and in speedier resolution of the issues at hand for the litigants.

The Justice of the Peace Court, the initial entry level into the court system for most citizens, have jurisdiction over civil cases in which the disputed amount is less than \$15,000. In criminal cases, the Justice of the Peace Court hears certain misdemeanors and most motor vehicle cases (excluding felonies) and the Justices of the Peace may act as committing magistrates for all crimes. Appeals from the Justice of the Peace Court may be taken to the Court of Common Pleas. Over one-half of all cases are disposed of rapidly at the Justice of the Peace Court level without further impact on the remainder of the judicial system.

The Court of Common Pleas has jurisdiction in civil cases where the amount in controversy, exclusive of interest, does not exceed \$50,000. In criminal cases, the Court of Common Pleas handles all misdemeanors occurring in the State except certain drug-related offenses and traffic offenses. Appeals may be taken to the Superior Court. The Court is also responsible for all preliminary hearings in felony cases.

The Family Court has extensive jurisdiction over virtually all family and juvenile matters. All civil appeals, including those relating to juvenile delinquency, go directly to the Supreme Court while criminal cases are appealed to the Superior Court.

The Superior Court, the State's court of general jurisdiction, has original jurisdiction over criminal

and civil cases except equity cases. The Court has exclusive jurisdiction over felonies and almost all drug offenses. In civil matters, the Court's authority to award damages is not subject to a monetary maximum. The Superior Court also serves as an intermediate appellate court by hearing appeals on the record from the Court of Common Pleas, the Family Court (in criminal cases), and a number of administrative agencies. Appeals from the Superior Court may be taken on the record to the Supreme Court.

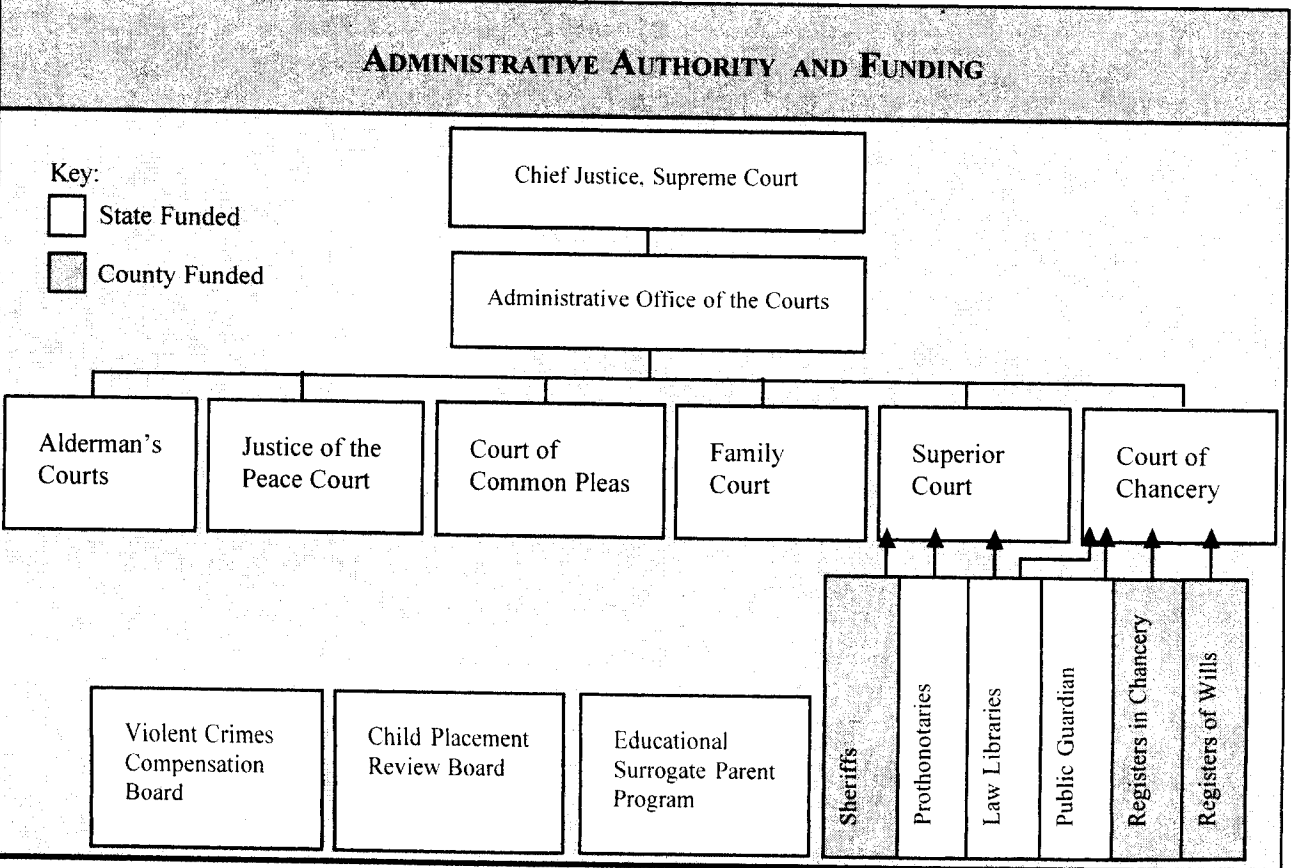
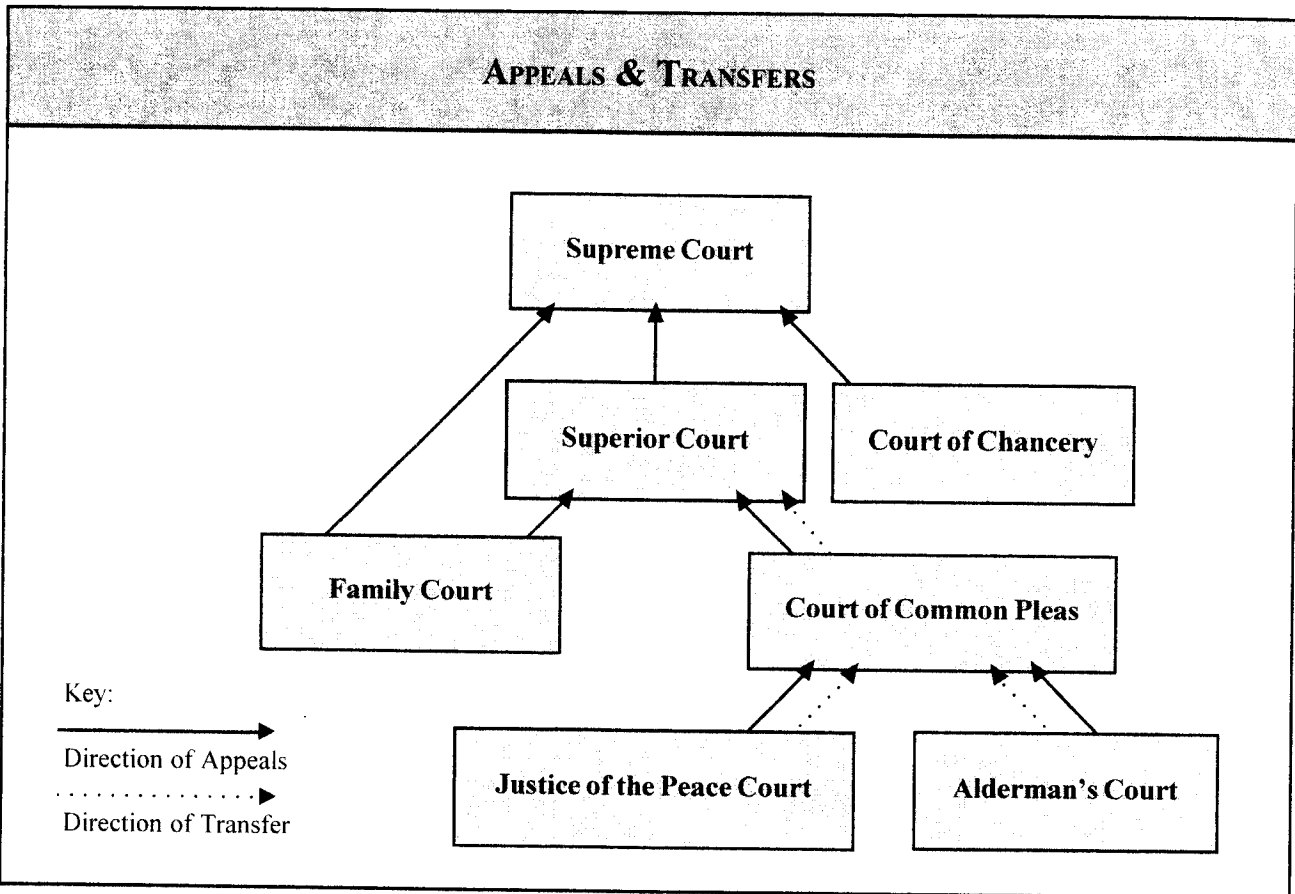
The Court of Chancery has jurisdiction to hear all matters relating to equity. The litigation in this tribunal deals largely with corporate issues, trusts, estates, other fiduciary matters, disputes involving the purchase of land and questions of title to real estate as well as commercial and contractual matters. The Court of Chancery has a national reputation in the business community and is responsible for developing the case law in Delaware on corporate matters. Appeals from the Court of Chancery may be taken on the record to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court is the State's appellate court which receives direct appeals from the Court of Chancery, the Superior Court, and the Family Court. As administrative head of the courts, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in consultation with the other justices, sets administrative policy for the court system.

The Administrative Office of the Courts, including the Judicial Information Center and the Office of the State Court Collections Enforcement, provide those centralized services to the Delaware judiciary which are consistent with the statewide policies and goals for judicial administration and support operations as established by the chief justice of the Supreme Court.

Other agencies associated with the Delaware Judiciary include these state funded agencies: Violent Crimes Compensation Board, Child Placement Review Board, Educational Surrogate Parent Coordinator, Prothonotaries, Law Libraries, and Public Guardian. The majority of the components of the Delaware judicial system are funded by the State. Exceptions to this are the Alderman's Courts, the Registers in Chancery and the Registers of Wills for the Court of Chancery, and the Sheriffs' Offices.

OVERVIEW OF THE COURTS



THE DELAWARE COURT SYSTEM

COURT OF LAST RESORT

SUPREME COURT

Final appellate jurisdiction for criminal cases in which the sentence exceeds certain minimums, and in civil cases as to final judgments, certain orders of the Court of Chancery, the Superior Court, and the Family Court and court designated boards. Issuer of certain writs.

EQUITY COURT

COURT OF CHANCERY

Hear/determine all matters and causes in equity (typically corporate, trust, fiduciary matters, land sale, real estate, and commercial/contractual matters).

LAW COURT

SUPERIOR COURT

Original statewide jurisdiction over criminal and civil cases (except equity cases). Exclusive jurisdiction over felonies and drug offenses (except marijuana possession and most felonies/drugs involving minors). Involuntary commitments to Delaware State Hospital. Intermediate appellate court.

COURTS OF LIMITED JURISDICTION

FAMILY COURT

Extensive jurisdiction over all domestic relations matters, including divorce, custody, visitation, child and spousal support, and property division. Jurisdiction over intrafamily misdemeanors, misdemeanor crimes against children, and civil domestic violence protective orders. Jurisdiction over all juvenile offenses except murder, rape, and kidnapping.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Statewide jurisdiction in civil actions involving less than \$50,000. All criminal misdemeanors (except certain drug-related offenses and traffic offenses). Responsible for all preliminary hearings. Appeals from the Justice of the Peace Court, Alderman's Courts, and the Division of Motor Vehicles.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

All civil cases involving less than \$15,000. Certain misdemeanors and most motor vehicle cases (except felonies). May act as committing magistrate for all crimes. Landlord/tenant disputes.

ALDERMAN'S COURTS

Minor misdemeanors, traffic, parking, and minor civil matter occurring within town limits (specific jurisdiction varies with town charter, as approved by the General Assembly).

FISCAL OVERVIEW

SUMMARY OF JUDICIAL BUDGETS - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000-2001-2002

STATE*	FY 1999 Actual Disbursement	FY 2000 Actual Disbursement	FY 2001 Budget	FY 2002 Request
Administrative Office of the Courts#	\$ 1,810,000	\$ 1,921,300	\$ 1,850,200	\$ 7,700,800
Ct. Appointed Attorney Programs**	1,060,600	1,129,400	1,224,300	1,764,300
Victim Offender Mediation Program**	269,100	344,800	424,800	424,800
Elder Law Program**	----	----	50,000	50,000
Judicial Information Center#	2,752,200	2,463,700	2,506,700	11,571,300
State Court Collections Enforcement	426,400	427,800	431,800	435,600
Supreme Court	2,301,700	3,058,100	2,323,100	2,335,000
Retired Judges Program**	18,600	17,600	30,000	30,000
Continuing Judicial Education**	47,900	53,800	73,300	73,300
Court of Chancery##	1,967,500	2,029,800	2,052,900	3,233,600
Office of the Public Guardian	376,300	366,000	400,000	482,900
Superior Court	15,212,900	15,747,800	15,941,500	16,312,800
Law Libraries	488,900	467,000	483,800	525,400
Family Court	14,207,300	15,338,900	16,288,900	16,832,000
Court of Common Pleas	5,196,400	5,731,200	6,444,600	6,597,000
Justice of the Peace Courts	11,600,900	11,944,000	12,695,000	13,319,000
Violent Crimes Compensation Board	1,420,200	1,192,400	2,206,200	2,210,200
Child Placement Review Board***	397,600	487,300	423,700	528,600
Educational Surrogate Parent Program	69,300	74,700	71,000	71,000
Office of the Child Advocate	----	90,700	349,400	353,100
TOTALS	\$ 59,623,800	\$ 62,886,300	\$ 66,271,200	\$ 84,850,700

	FY 1999 Actual Disbursement	FY 2000 Actual Disbursement	FY 2001 Appropriations
NEW CASTLE COUNTY			
Register in Chancery	\$ 773,028	\$ 827,776	\$ 815,018
Register of Wills	967,373	1,012,891	1,054,200
Prothonotary	79,295	79,295	74,500
Sheriff	1,132,821	1,190,915	1,272,735
New Castle County Totals	\$ 2,952,517	\$ 3,110,877	\$ 3,216,453
KENT COUNTY			
Register in Chancery	\$ 155,000	\$ 157,700	\$ 149,700
Register of Wills	148,000	145,600	151,100
Sheriff	250,500	284,900	309,500
Kent County Totals	\$ 553,500	\$ 588,200	\$ 610,300
SUSSEX COUNTY			
Register in Chancery	\$ 122,698	\$ 124,207	\$ 146,332
Register of Wills	154,935	166,341	174,630
Sheriff	286,244	275,571	348,796
Sussex County Totals	\$ 563,877	\$ 566,119	\$ 669,758
MUNICIPALITIES			
Alderman's Courts	N/A	N/A	N/A
GRAND TOTALS JUDICIAL BRANCH	\$ 63,693,694	\$ 67,151,496	\$ 70,767,711

*Figures may include State governed funds, federal funds and other funds.

**These programs are funded as part of the Administrative Office of the Courts. They are shown separately here for informational purposes.

***This Board was previously known as the Foster Care Review Board. The name of the organization was changed in FY 2001.

#The majority of the growth is in one-time funding related to the new courthouse in Wilmington.

##The majority of the growth is the proposed transfer of the Register in Chancery offices from county control to state control.

FISCAL OVERVIEW

COURT GENERATED REVENUE* - FISCAL YEAR 2000 SUBMITTED TO STATE GENERAL FUND

	Fees and Costs	Fines	Interest**	Miscellaneous	Totals	Revenue as a % of Disbursements***
Administrative Office of the Courts	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0.0%
Judicial Information Center	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
State Court Collections Enforcement Office	0	0	0	100	100	0.0%
Supreme Court	55,900	0	0	0	55,900	1.8%
Court of Chancery	0	0	199,800	0	199,800	9.8%
Office of the Public Guardian	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Superior Court	1,512,500	309,600	74,200	451,900	2,348,200	14.9%
Law Libraries	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Family Court	508,700	73,400	0	38,600	620,700	4.0%
Court of Common Pleas	1,519,700	942,200	0	45,600	2,507,500	43.7%
Justice of the Peace Court	2,102,100	993,400	0	9,800	3,105,300	26.0%
Child Placement Review Board****	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Educational Surrogate Parent Program	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Office of the Child Advocate	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Alderman's Courts	0	0	0	13,528	13,528	0.0%
STATE GENERAL FUNDS TOTALS	\$5,698,900	\$2,318,600	\$ 274,000	\$ 559,528	\$8,851,028	14.1%

COURT GENERATED REVENUE* - FISCAL YEAR 2000 RECEIVED BY VIOLENT CRIMES COMPENSATION BOARD

	Fees and Costs	Fines	Interest**	Miscellaneous	Totals	Revenue as a % of Disbursement#
Superior Court	\$ 0	\$ 385,589	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 385,589	----
Family Court	0	24,527	0	0	24,527	----
Court of Common Pleas	0	738,729	0	0	738,729	----
Justice of the Peace Court	0	1,354,528	0	0	1,354,528	----
Alderman's Courts	0	157,615	0	0	157,615	----
Restitution	0	86,018	0	0	86,018	----
Other	0	7,112	23,167	63,211	93,490	----
VIOLENT CRIMES COMPENSATION BOARD TOTALS	\$ 0	\$2,754,118	\$23,167	\$63,211	\$2,840,496	238.2%

*Figures represent only revenue actually received, not the total amount of fines and costs assessed.

**Counties receive 50% of all Court of Chancery interest money.

***FY 2000 revenue divided by FY 2000 Actual Disbursement, which includes State General Funds, Federal Funds and Other Funds.

****This Board was previously known as the Foster Care Review Board. The name was changed in FY 2001.

#FY 2000 revenue divided by FY 2000 actual disbursement.

Source: Administrative Office of the Courts

FISCAL OVERVIEW

COURT GENERATED REVENUE* - FISCAL YEAR 2000 <i>SUBMITTED TO NEW CASTLE COUNTY</i>						
	Fees & Costs	Fines	Interest**	Miscellaneous	Totals	Revenue as a % of disbursement#
Register in Chancery	\$ 704,091	\$ 0	\$ 205,416	\$ 0	\$ 909,507	109.9%
Register of Wills	2,269,807	0	0	0	2,269,807	224.1%
Prothonotary	37,144	694	0	0	37,838	47.7%
Sheriff	1,346,746	0	48,206	0	1,394,952	117.1%
Justice of the Peace Court	0	725,982	0	0	725,982	-----
TOTALS	\$ 4,357,788	\$ 726,676	\$ 253,622	\$ 0	\$5,338,086	148.3%

COURT GENERATED REVENUE* - FISCAL YEAR 2000 <i>SUBMITTED TO KENT COUNTY</i>						
	Fees & Costs	Fines	Interest**	Miscellaneous	Totals	Revenue as a % of disbursement#
Register in Chancery	\$ 26,561	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 26,561	16.8%
Register of Wills	415,998	0	0	0	415,998	285.7%
Sheriff	416,581	0	0	0	416,581	146.2%
Justice of the Peace Court	0	2,601	0	0	2,601	-----
TOTALS	\$ 859,140	\$ 2,601	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$861,741	146.1%

COURT GENERATED REVENUE* - FISCAL YEAR 2000 <i>SUBMITTED TO SUSSEX COUNTY</i>						
	Fees & Costs	Fines	Interest**	Miscellaneous	Totals	Revenue as a % of disbursement#
Register in Chancery	\$ 45,796	\$ 0	\$2,860	\$ 0	\$ 48,656	39.2%
Register of Wills	632,826	0	0	0	632,826	380.4%
Sheriff	366,548	0	0	0	366,548	133.0%
Justice of the Peace Court	0	811	0	0	811	-----
TOTALS	\$1,045,170	\$811	\$2,860	\$0	\$1,048,841	185.1%

*Figures represent only revenue collected, not the total amount of fines and costs assessed.

**Counties receive 50% of all Court of Chancery interest money.

#FY 2000 revenue divided by FY 2000 actual disbursement.

Source: Administrative Office of the Courts

FISCAL OVERVIEW

COURT GENERATED REVENUE* - FISCAL YEAR 2000 SUBMITTED TO MUNICIPALITIES

	Fees & Costs	Fines	Interest**	Miscellaneous	Totals	Revenue as a % of disbursement#
Court of Common Pleas	\$ 0	\$ 833,412	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 833,412	14.5%
Justice of the Peace Court	0	2,867,938	0	0	2,867,738	24.0%
Alderman's Courts	226,670	601,959	0	0	828,629	N/A
TOTALS	\$ 226,670	\$ 4,303,309	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$4,529,979	N/A

COURT GENERATED REVENUE* - FISCAL YEAR 2000 GRAND TOTALS - JUDICIAL BRANCH

	Fees & Costs	Fines	Interest**	Miscellaneous	Totals	Revenue as a % of disbursement#
TOTALS	\$ 12,187,668	\$ 11,882,108	\$ 553,649	\$ 622,739	\$25,246,164	37.6%

RESTITUTION - FISCAL YEAR 2000

	Restitution Assessed	Restitution Collected	Restitution Disbursed
Supreme Court	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Court of Chancery	0	0	0
Superior Court	4,083,558	1,155,986	1,188,863
Family Court	249,993	182,187	186,765
Court of Common Pleas	378,501	338,619	313,100
Justice of the Peace Court	93,392	99,201	100,726
STATE	\$ 4,805,444	\$ 1,775,993	\$ 1,789,454

*Figures represent only revenue actually collected, not the amount assessed.

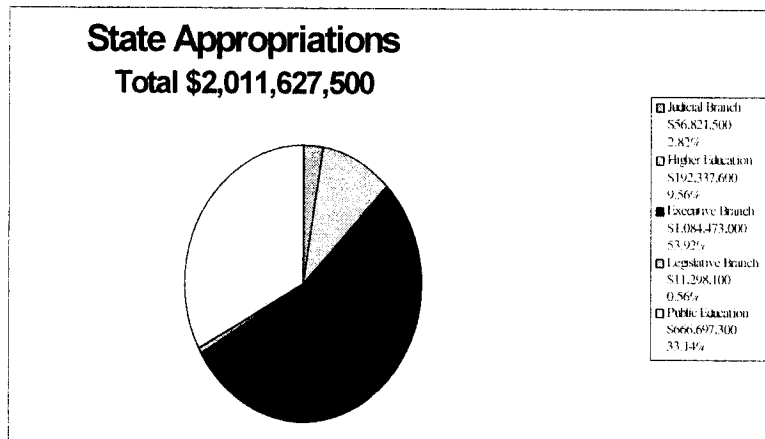
**Counties receive 50% of all Court of Chancery interest money.

#FY 2000 revenue divided by FY 2000 actual disbursement, which includes state general, federal, and other funds.

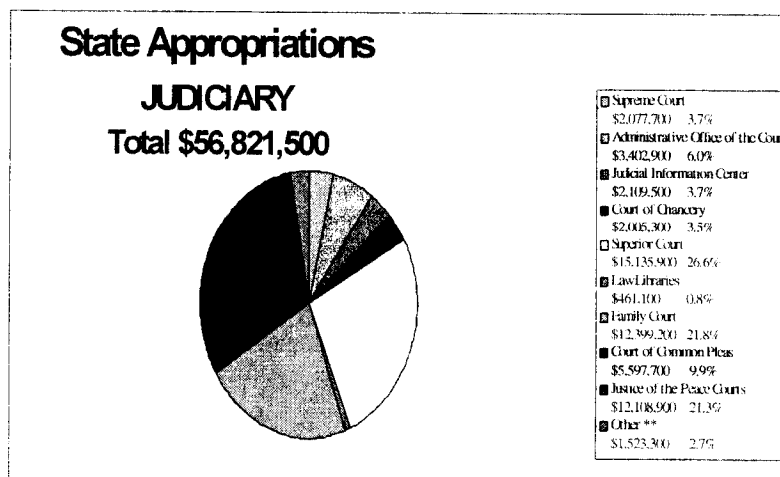
Source: Administrative Office of the Courts

FISCAL OVERVIEW

DELAWARE GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS*
FISCAL YEAR 2000
STATE APPROPRIATIONS -- TOTAL (\$2,011,627,500)



DELAWARE GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS*
FISCAL YEAR 2000
STATE APPROPRIATIONS -- JUDICIARY (\$56,821,500)



*The chart reflects state general fund monies only. In addition to those amounts, the Supreme Court received \$65,500, the Family Court received \$2,723,700, the Court of Common Pleas received \$30,700 and the Violent Crimes Compensation Board received \$2,196,900 in appropriated special funds.

**Other: Public Guardian (\$386,200), Office of State Court Collections Enforcement (\$419,600), Child Placement Review Board (\$408,800), Educational Surrogate Program (\$68,700) and the Office of the Child Advocate (\$240,000).

Source: 140th General Assembly, House Bill 400.

Supreme Court

Legal Authorization

The Supreme Court is created by the Constitution of Delaware, Article IV, Section 1. The Supreme Court sits in Dover but the justices maintain their chambers in the counties where they reside.

Court History

The modern Supreme Court was established in 1951 by constitutional amendment. The State's first separate Supreme Court initially consisted of three justices and was enlarged to the current five justices in 1978.

Prior to 1951, Delaware was without a separate Supreme Court. The highest appellate authority prior to the creation of the separate Supreme Court consisted of those judges who did not participate in the original litigation in the lower courts. These judges would hear the appeal en banc (collectively) and would exercise final jurisdiction in all matters in both law and equity.

Jurisdiction

The Court has final appellate jurisdiction in criminal cases in which the sentence exceeds certain minimums and in civil cases as to final judgments and for certain other orders of the Court of Chancery, the Superior Court, and the Family Court. Appeals are heard on the record. Under some circumstances, the Supreme Court has jurisdiction to issue writs of prohibition, quo warranto, certiorari, and mandamus.

Justices

The Supreme Court consists of a chief justice and four justices who are nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The justices are appointed for 12-year terms and must be learned in the law and citizens of the State. Three of the justices must be of one of the major political parties while the other two justices must be of the other major political party.

Administration

The chief justice is responsible for the administration of all courts in the State and appoints a State Court Administrator to manage the non-judicial aspects of court administration. The Supreme Court is staffed by a clerk of the court, staff attorneys, an assistant clerk, law clerks, secretaries, and court clerks.

SUPREME COURT

FISCAL YEAR 2000 - TOTAL CASELOAD CASELOAD SUMMARY

	Pending 6/30/99	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/00	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
Criminal Appeals	142	273	240	175	+33	+23.2%
Civil Appeals	144	317	298	163	+19	+13.2%
Original Applications*	14	66	61	19	+5	+35.7%
TOTALS	300	656	599	357	+57	+19.0%

COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 - TOTAL CASELOAD CASELOAD FILINGS

	1999	2000	Change	% Change
Criminal Appeals	232	273	+41	+17.7%
Civil Appeals	263	317	+54	+20.5%
Certifications	2	4	+2	+100.0%
Original Applications	42	45	+3	+7.1%
Board on Professional Responsibility	17	14	-3	-17.6%
Board of Bar Examiners	1	1	0	0.0%
Unauthorized Practice of Law	0	2	+2	-----
Advisory Opinions	1	0	-1	-100.0%
TOTALS	558	656	+98	+17.6%

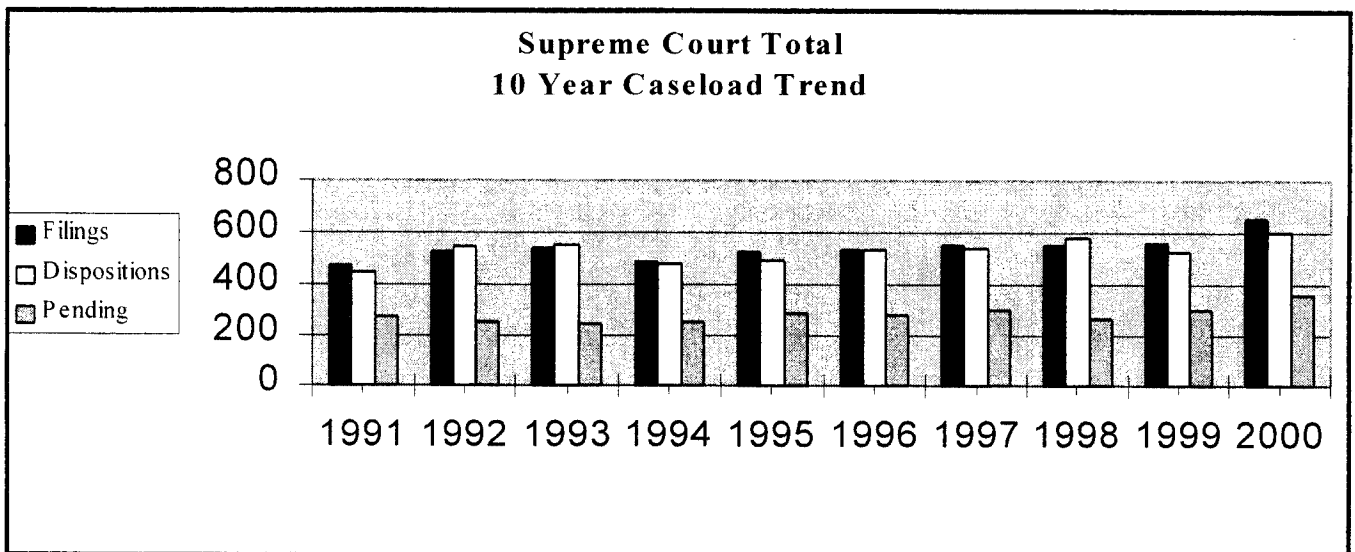
COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 - TOTAL CASELOAD CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS

	1999	2000	Change	% Change
Criminal Appeals	203	240	+37	+18.2%
Civil Appeals	267	298	+31	+11.6%
Certifications	1	3	+2	+200.0%
Original Applications	39	41	+2	+5.1%
Board on Professional Responsibility	14	14	0	0.0%
Board of Bar Examiners	2	2	0	0.0%
Unauthorized Practice of Law	0	1	+1	-----
Advisory Opinions	1	0	-1	-100.0%
TOTALS	527	599	+72	+13.5%

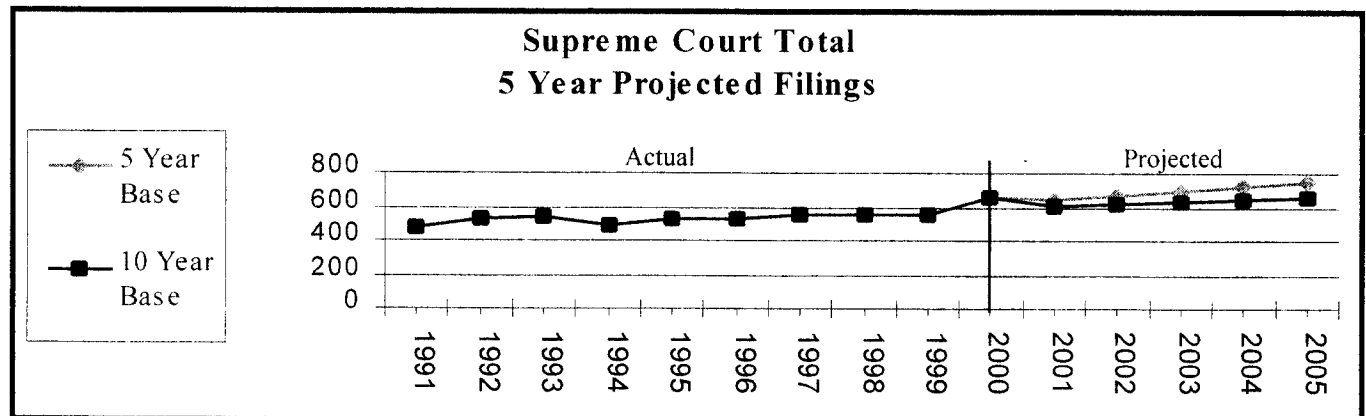
*Board on Professional Responsibility, Board of Bar Examiners, Unauthorized Practice of Law cases and Advisory Opinions are included with the original applications in the Caseload Summary. Each is listed separately, however, in the Caseload Comparison. Unauthorized Practice of Law = Board on the Unauthorized Practice of Law

Source: Clerk of the Supreme Court; Administrative Office of the Courts

SUPREME COURT



	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Filings	474	530	542	488	530	532	551	554	558	656
Dispositions	444	549	552	482	495	535	537	582	527	599
Pending at End of Year	274	255	245	251	286	283	297	269	300	357



	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
5 Year Base	---	---	---	---	---	532	551	554	558	656	647	672	698	723	749
10 Year Base	474	530	542	488	530	532	551	554	558	656	611	624	636	649	662

Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source: Clerk of the Supreme Court; Administrative Office of the Courts

SUPREME COURT

FISCAL YEAR 2000 - CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS FILINGS

	Court of Chancery		Superior Court		Family Court		Non-Court Originated		TOTALS	
Criminal Appeals	0	0.0%	273	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	273	100.0%
Civil Appeals	54	17.0%	183	57.7%	80	25.2%	0	0.0%	317	100.0%
Certifications	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	100.0%	4	100.0%
Original Applications	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	45	100.0%	45	100.0%
Board on Professional Responsibility	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	14	100.0%	14	100.0%
Board of Bar Examiners	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	1	100.0%
Unauthorized Practice of Law	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	100.0%	2	100.0%
TOTALS	54	8.2%	456	69.5%	80	12.2%	66	10.1%	656	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 2000 - CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS DISPOSITIONS

	Court of Chancery		Superior Court		Family Court		Non-Court Originated		TOTALS	
Criminal Appeals	0	0.0%	240	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	240	100.0%
Civil Appeals	61	20.5%	170	57.0%	67	22.5%	0	0.0%	298	100.0%
Certifications	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	100.0%	3	100.0%
Original Applications	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	41	100.0%	41	100.0%
Board on Professional Responsibility	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	14	100.0%	14	100.0%
Board of Bar Examiners	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	100.0%	2	100.0%
Unauthorized Practice of Law	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	1	100.0%
TOTALS	61	10.2%	410	68.4%	67	11.2%	61	10.2%	599	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 2000 - CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS CHANGE IN PENDING

	Court of Chancery		Superior Court		Family Court		Non-Court Originated		TOTALS	
Criminal Appeals	0		+33		0		0		+33	
Civil Appeals	-7		+13		+13		0		+19	
Certifications	0		0		0		+1		+1	
Original Applications	0		0		0		+4		+4	
Board on Professional Responsibility	0		0		0		0		0	
Board of Bar Examiners	0		0		0		-1		-1	
Unauthorized Practice of Law	0		0		0		+1		+1	
TOTALS	-7		+46		+13		+5		+57	

Unauthorized Practice of Law = Board on the Unauthorized Practice of Law
 Source: Clerk of the Supreme Court; Administrative Office of the Courts

TYPES OF DISPOSITIONS - FISCAL YEAR 2000 - CASELOAD
APPEALS DISPOSITIONS

	Affirmed		Affirmed Part/ Reversed Part		Reversed		Remanded		Voluntary Dismissal		Court Dismissal		Leave to Appeal Denied		Other		Totals	
Criminal Appeals	159	66.3%	7	2.9%	10	4.2%	1	0.4%	20	8.3%	43	17.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	240	100.0%
Civil Appeals	156	43.5%	7	1.9%	18	5.0%	4	1.1%	49	13.6%	90	25.1%	14	3.9%	21	5.8%	359	100.0%
TOTALS	315	52.6%	14	2.3%	28	4.7%	5	0.8%	69	11.5%	133	22.2%	14	2.3%	21	3.5%	599	100.0%

TYPES OF DISPOSITIONS - FISCAL YEAR 2000 - CASELOAD
MISCELLANEOUS DISPOSITIONS

	Action Taken*		Approved		Answered		Voluntary Dismissal		Court Dismissal		Denied		Leave to Appeal Denied		Other		Totals	
Original Applications	0	0.0%	1	2.4%	1	2.4%	2	4.9%	37	90.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	41	100.0%
Certifications	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	66.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	33.3%	3	100.0%
Bd. On Prof. Resp.	8	57.1%	5	35.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	7.1%	14	100.0%
Bd. Of Bar Exam.	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	50.0%	1	50.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	100.0%
Un. Prac. Of Law	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%
TOTALS	8	13.1%	7	11.5%	3	4.9%	2	3.3%	38	62.3%	1	1.6%	0	0.0%	2	3.3%	61	100.0%

TYPES OF DISPOSITIONS - FISCAL YEAR 2000 - CASELOAD
METHODS OF DISPOSITIONS

	Assigned Opinion		Per Curiam Opinion		Written Order		Voluntary Dismissal		Other		Totals	
Criminal Appeals	17	7.1%	2	0.8%	201	83.8%	20	8.3%	0	0.0%	240	100.0%
Civil Appeals	26	8.7%	5	1.7%	219	73.5%	48	16.1%	0	0.0%	298	100.0%
Certifications	1	33.3%	1	33.3%	1	33.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	100.0%
Original Applications	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	38	92.7%	1	2.4%	2	4.9%	41	100.0%
Board on Professional Resp.	0	0.0%	6	42.9%	8	57.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	14	100.0%
Board of Bar Examiners	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	100.0%
Un. Prac. Of Law	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%
TOTALS	44	7.3%	14	2.3%	470	78.5%	69	11.5%	2	0.3%	599	100.0%

*Action taken includes disbarments, suspensions and reinstatements.

Bd. on Prof. Resp. = Board on Professional Responsibility

Bd. of Bar Exam. = Board of Bar Examiners

Un. Prac. of Law = Board on the Unauthorized Practice of Law

Source: Clerk of the Supreme Court; Administrative Office of the Courts

SUPREME COURT

FISCAL YEAR 2000 - PERFORMANCE SUMMARY AVERAGE ELAPSED TIME TO DISPOSITION

	Number of Dispositions	Average Time From Filing to Disposition	Average Time From Submission to Disposition*
Criminal Appeals	240	211.9 days	38.3 days
Civil Appeals	298	181.6 days	31.4 days
Certifications	3	132.7 days	64.7 days
Original Applications	41	47.7 days	18.8 days
Board on Professional Responsibility	14	165.7 days	29.6 days
Board of Bar Examiners	2	164.0 days	17.5 days
Unauthorized Practice of Law	1	84.0 days	5.0 days
TOTALS	599	183.8 days	33.3 days

COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 - PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

	1999	2000	Change	% Change
Criminal Appeals	233.5 days	211.9 days	-21.6 days	-9.3%
Civil Appeals	175.9 days	181.6 days	+5.7 days	+3.2%
Certifications	27.0 days	132.7 days	+105.7 days	+391.5%
Original Applications	26.6 days	47.7 days	+21.1 days	+79.3%
Board on Professional Responsibility	95.7 days	165.7 days	+70.0 days	+73.1%
Board of Bar Examiners	436.0 days	164.0 days	-272.0 days	-62.4%
Unauthorized Practice of Law	----- days	84.0 days	----- days	-----
TOTALS	185.7 days	183.8 days	-1.9 days	-1.0%

*Average time from date submitted for judicial decision to actual date of disposition. Not all Supreme Court dispositions require a judicial decision.

Unauthorized Practice of Law = Board on the Unauthorized Practice of Law

Source: Clerk of the Supreme Court; Administrative Office of the Courts

FISCAL YEAR 2000 - PERFORMANCE BREAKDOWNS ELAPSED TIME BY DISPOSITION TYPE			
Type of Disposition	Number of Dispositions	Average Time From Filing to Disposition	Average Time From Submission to Disposition*
Affirmed	315	225.4 days	34.7 days
Affirmed Part/Reversed Part	14	469.6 days	91.3 days
Reversed	28	324.9 days	69.9 days
Remanded	5	241.4 days	49.0 days
Voluntary Dismissal	69	113.0 days	----
Court Dismissal	133	83.2 days	17.9 days
Leave to Appeal Denied	14	19.9 days	13.3 days
Other	21	145.1 days	32.2 days
TOTALS	599	183.8 days	33.3 days

FISCAL YEAR 2000 -PERFORMANCE BREAKDOWNS ELAPSED TIME BY DISPOSITION METHOD			
Method of Disposition	Number of Dispositions	Average Time From Filing to Disposition	Average Time From Submission to Disposition*
Assigned Opinion	44	412.6 days	102.9 days
Per Curiam Opinion	14	294.6 days	55.3 days
Written Order	470	170.1 days	26.2 days
Voluntary Dismissal	69	113.0 days	----
Other	2	28.0 days	17.0 days
TOTALS	599	183.8 days	33.3 days

*Average time from date submitted for judicial decision to actual date of disposition. Not all Supreme Court cases require a judicial decision.

Source: Clerk of the Supreme Court: Administrative Office of the Courts

Court of Chancery

Legal Authorization

The Constitution of Delaware, Article IV, Section 1, authorizes the Court of Chancery.

Court History

The Court of Chancery came into existence as a separate court under the Constitution of 1792. It was modeled on the High Court of Chancery in England and is in direct line of succession from the Court. The Court consisted solely of the chancellor until 1939 when the position of vice chancellor was added. The increase of the Court's workload, since then, has led to further expansions to its present complement of a chancellor and four vice chancellors, with the addition of the fourth vice chancellor being made in 1989.

Geographic Organization

The Court of Chancery holds court in Wilmington, Dover and Georgetown. The Court of Chancery consists of one chancellor and four vice chancellors. The chancellor and vice chancellors are nominated by the Governor and must be confirmed by the Senate for 12-year terms. The chancellor and vice chancellors must be learned in the law and must be Delaware citizens.

Public Guardian

The chancellor has the duty to appoint the public guardian.

Support Personnel

The chancellor may appoint court reporters, bailiffs, criers or pages, and law clerks. The register in chancery is the clerk of the court for all actions except those within the jurisdiction of the register of wills. A register in chancery is elected for each county. The chancellor or vice chancellor resident in the county is to appoint one chief deputy register in chancery in each county. The register in chancery in New Castle County appoints a chief deputy register in chancery as well.

Legal Jurisdiction

The Court of Chancery has jurisdiction to hear and determine all matters and causes in equity. The general equity jurisdiction of the Court is measured in terms of the general equity jurisdiction of the High Court of Chancery of Great Britain as it existed prior to the separation of the American colonies. The General Assembly may confer upon the Court of Chancery additional statutory jurisdiction. In today's practice, the litigation in the Court of Chancery consists largely of corporate matters, trusts, estates, and other fiduciary matters, disputes involving the purchase and sale of land, questions of title to real estate, and commercial and contractual matters in general. When issues of fact to be tried by a jury arise, the Court of Chancery may order such facts to trial by issues at the Bar of the Superior Court (10 Del. C., Section 369).

COURT OF CHANCERY

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CASELOAD SUMMARY

	Pending* 6/30/99	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/00	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle	7,762	3,220	3,299	7,683	-79	-1.0%
Kent	2,591	482	399	2,674	+83	+3.2%
Sussex	2,905	740	669	2,976	+71	+2.4%
STATE	13,258	4,442	4,367	13,333	+75	+0.6%

COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 CASELOAD FILINGS

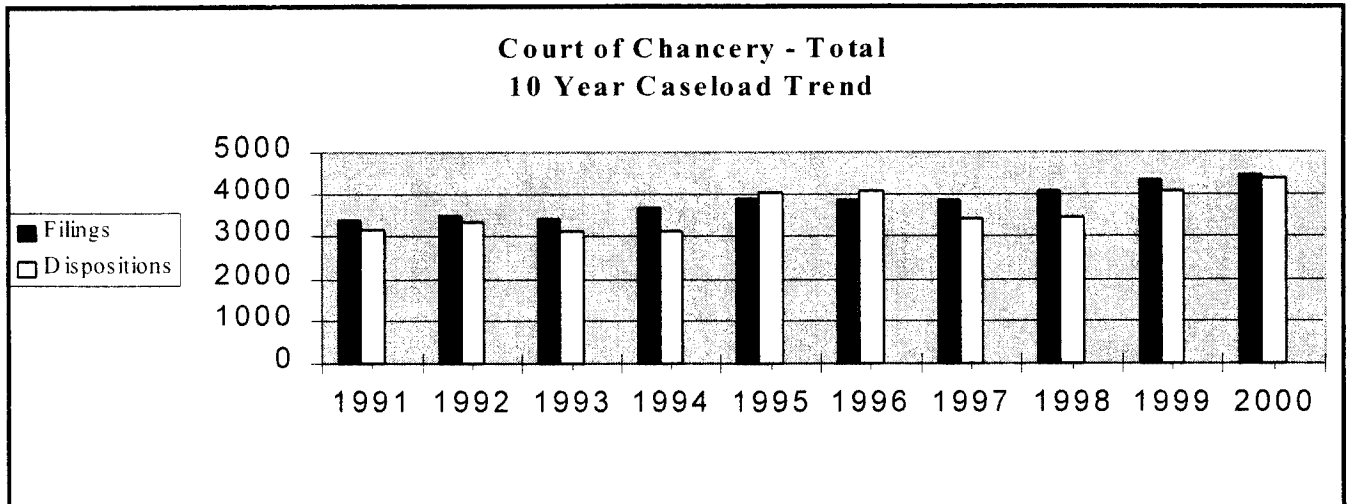
	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	2,967	3,220	+253	+8.5%
Kent	524	482	-42	-8.0%
Sussex	861	740	-121	-14.1%
STATE	4,352	4,442	+90	+2.1%

COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS

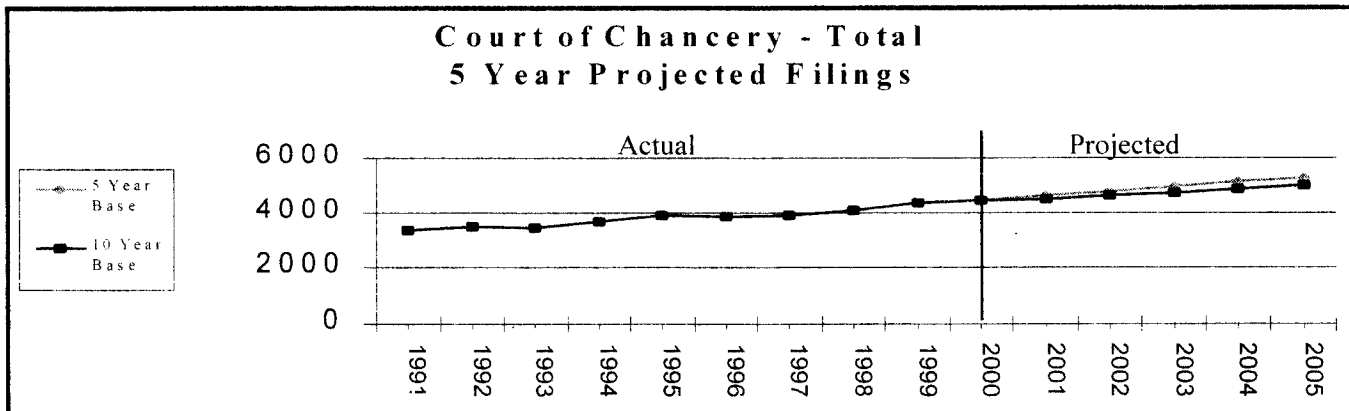
	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	2,771	3,299	+528	+19.1%
Kent	478	399	-79	-16.5%
Sussex	841	669	-172	-20.5%
STATE	4,090	4,367	+277	+6.8%

*New Castle, Sussex and State amended from previous year's report.

Source: Registers in Chancery. Registers of Wills: Administrative Office of the Courts



	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Filings	3,365	3,493	3,418	3,660	3,902	3,853	3,876	4,081	4,352	4,442
Dispositions	3,147	3,356	3,121	3,121	4,041	4,097	3,424	3,440	4,090	4,367



	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
5 Year Base	----	----	----	----	----	3,853	3,876	4,081	4,352	4,442	4,616	4,782	4,948	5,114	5,279
10 Year Base	3,365	3,493	3,418	3,660	3,902	3,853	3,876	4,081	4,352	4,442	4,498	4,618	4,736	4,855	4,974

Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source: Registers in Chancery. Registers of Wills; Administrative Office of the Courts

COURT OF CHANCERY

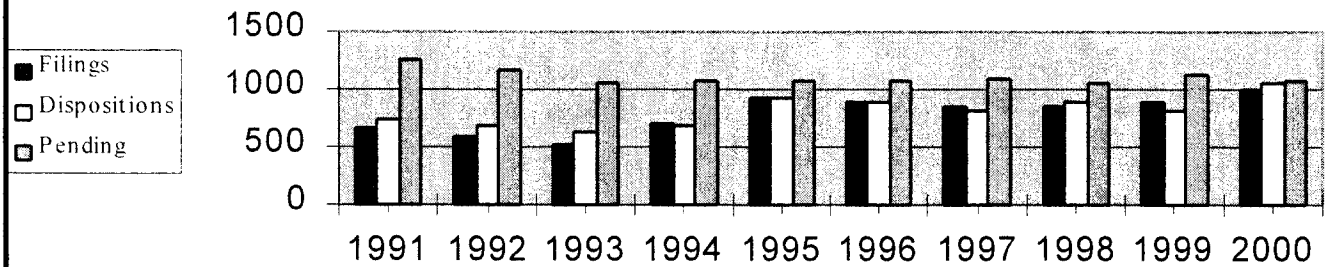
FISCAL YEAR 2000 CIVIL CASES CASELOAD SUMMARY						
	Pending 6/30/99	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/00	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle	955	917	979	893	-62	-6.5%
Kent	78	27	22	83	+5	+6.4%
Sussex	99	65	60	104	+5	+5.1%
STATE	1,132	1,009	1,061	1,080	-52	-4.6%

COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 - CIVIL CASELOAD CASELOAD FILINGS				
	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	810	917	+107	+13.2%
Kent	26	27	+1	+3.8%
Sussex	57	65	+8	+14.0%
TOTALS	893	1,009	+116	+13.0%

COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 - CIVIL CASELOAD CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS				
	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	748	979	+231	+30.9%
Kent	14	22	+8	+57.1%
Sussex	60	60	0	0.0%
TOTALS	822	1,061	+239	+29.1%

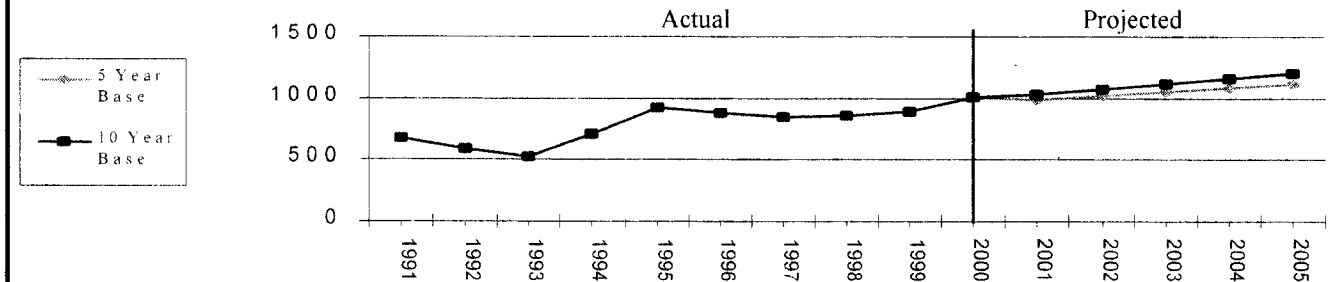
Source: Registers in Chancery: Administrative Office of the Courts

**Court of Chancery - Civil
10 Year Caseload Trend**



	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Filings	670	585	525	707	925	880	847	852	893	1,009
Dispositions	740	676	635	680	929	890	820	887	822	1,061
Pending at End of Year	1,260	1,169	1,057	1,082	1,078	1,068	1,095	1,061	1,132	1,080

**Court of Chancery - Civil
5 Year Projected Filings**



	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
5 Year Base	---	---	---	---	---	880	847	852	893	1,009	987	1,018	1,048	1,079	1,109
10 Year Base	670	585	525	707	925	880	847	852	893	1,009	1,030	1,074	1,117	1,161	1,205

Trend lines computed by regression analysis.
Source: Registers in Chancery. Administrative Office of the Courts

COURT OF CHANCERY

FISCAL YEAR 2000 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS CASELOAD SUMMARY

	Pending* 6/30/99	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/00	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle	3,731	814	960	3,585	-146	-3.9%
Kent	1,153	119	53	1,219	+66	+5.7%
Sussex	1,915	122	49	1,988	+73	+3.8%
STATE	6,799	1,055	1,062	6,792	-7	-0.1%

COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 - MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS CASELOAD FILINGS

	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	708	814	+106	+15.0%
Kent	168	119	-49	-29.2%
Sussex	231	122	-109	-47.2%
TOTALS	1,107	1,055	-52	-4.7%

COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 - MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS

	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	714	960	+246	+34.5%
Kent	123	53	-70	-56.9%
Sussex	203	49	-154	-75.9%
TOTALS	1,040	1,062	+22	+2.1%

*New Castle, Sussex, and State amended from previous year's report.
Source: Registers in Chancery; Administrative Office of the Courts

**FISCAL YEAR 2000 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS - CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS
CASELOAD FILINGS**

	Guardians for Minors		Guardians for Infirm		Trusts		Other Matters		Totals	
New Castle	237	29.1%	130	16.0%	376	46.2%	71	8.7%	814	100.0%
Kent	60	50.4%	28	23.5%	20	16.8%	11	9.2%	119	100.0%
Sussex	36	29.5%	59	48.4%	1	0.8%	26	21.3%	122	100.0%
STATE	333	31.6%	217	20.6%	397	37.6%	108	10.2%	1,055	100.0%

**FISCAL YEAR 2000 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS - CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS
CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS**

	Guardians for Minors		Guardians for Infirm		Trusts		Other Matters		Totals	
New Castle	158	16.5%	118	12.3%	674	70.2%	10	1.0%	960	100.0%
Kent	32	60.4%	9	17.0%	7	13.2%	5	9.4%	53	100.0%
Sussex	24	49.0%	16	32.7%	1	2.0%	8	16.3%	49	100.0%
STATE	214	20.2%	143	13.5%	682	64.2%	23	2.2%	1,062	100.0%

**FISCAL YEAR 2000 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS - CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS
PENDING AT END OF YEAR**

	Guardians for Minors		Guardians for Infirm		Trusts		Other Matters		Totals	
New Castle	1,344	37.5%	1,419	39.6%	525	14.6%	297	8.3%	3,585	100.0%
Kent	517	42.4%	404	33.1%	225	18.5%	73	6.0%	1,219	100.0%
Sussex	734	36.9%	945	47.5%	156	7.8%	153	7.7%	1,988	100.0%
STATE	2,595	38.2%	2,768	40.8%	906	13.3%	523	7.7%	6,792	100.0%

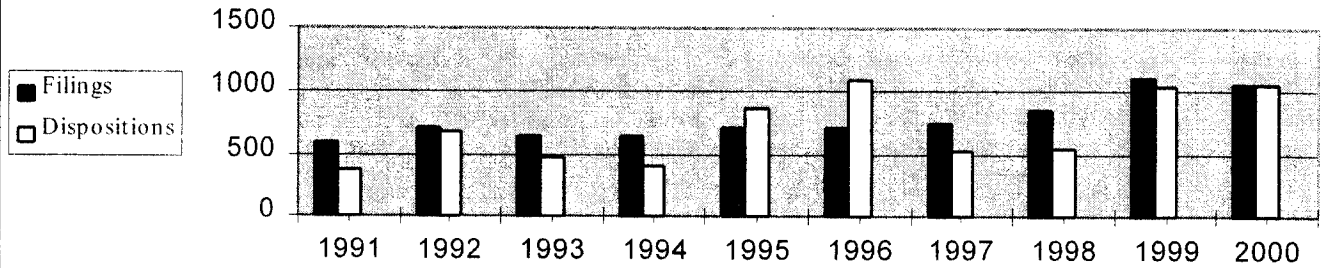
**FISCAL YEAR 2000 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS - CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS
CHANGE IN PENDING AT END OF YEAR**

	Guardians for Minors	Guardians for Infirm	Trusts	Other Matters	Totals
New Castle	+79	+12	-298	+61	-146
Kent	+28	+19	+13	+6	+66
Sussex	+12	+43	0	+18	+73
STATE	+119	+74	-285	+85	-7

Source: Registers in Chancery: Administrative Office of the Courts

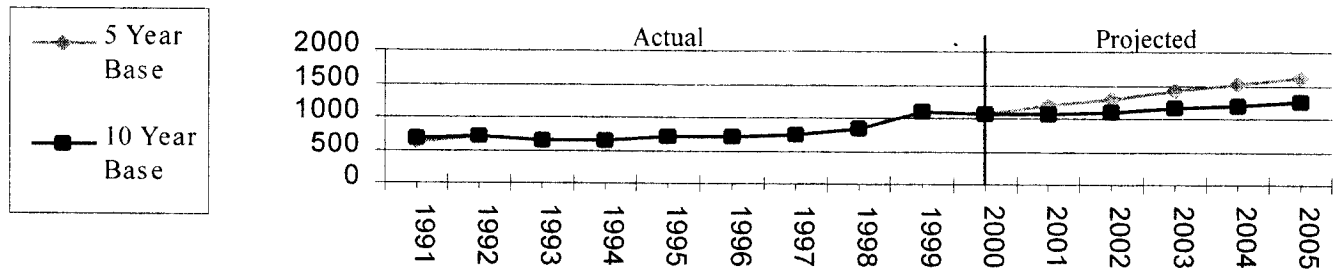
COURT OF CHANCERY

**Court of Chancery - Miscellaneous
10 Year Caseload Trend**



	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Filings	604	710	651	652	712	720	749	844	1,107	1,055
Dispositions	375	688	484	407	864	1,085	531	539	1,040	1,062

**Court of Chancery - Miscellaneous
5 Year Projected Filings**



	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
5 Year Base	----	----	----	----	----	720	749	844	1,107	1,055	1,203	1,306	1,409	1,512	1,615
10 Year Base	604	710	651	652	712	720	749	844	1,107	1,055	1,050	1,100	1,149	1,198	1,247

Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source: Registers in Chancery; Administrative Office of the Courts

FISCAL YEAR 2000 ESTATES CASELOAD SUMMARY						
	Pending 6/30/99	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/00	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle	3,076	1,489	1,360	3,205	+129	+4.2%
Kent	1,360	336	324	1,372	+12	+0.9%
Sussex	891	553	560	884	-7	-0.8%
STATE	5,327	2,378	2,244	5,461	+134	+2.5%

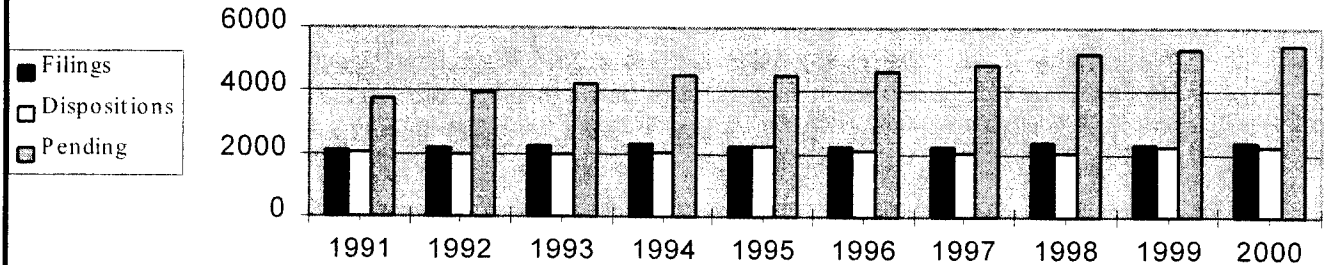
COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 ESTATE CASELOAD FILINGS				
	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	1,449	1,489	+40	+2.8%
Kent	330	336	+6	+1.8%
Sussex	573	553	-20	-3.5%
STATE	2,352	2,378	+26	+1.1%

COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 ESTATE CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS				
	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	1,309	1,360	+51	+3.9%
Kent	341	324	-17	-5.0%
Sussex	578	560	-18	-3.1%
STATE	2,228	2,244	+16	+0.7%

Source: Registers of Wills; Administrative Office of the Courts

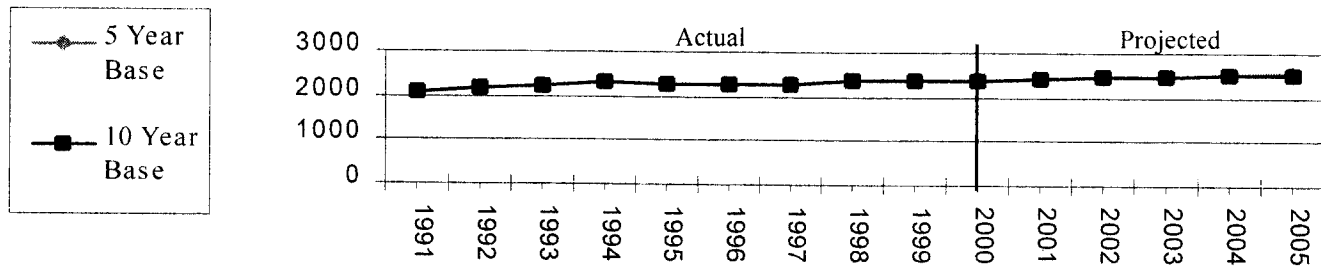
COURT OF CHANCERY

**Court of Chancery - Estates
10 Year Caseload Trend**



	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Filings	2,091	2,198	2,242	2,301	2,265	2,253	2,280	2,385	2,352	2,378
Dispositions	2,032	1,992	2,002	2,034	2,248	2,122	2,073	2,014	2,228	2,244
Pending at End of Year	3,764	3,970	4,210	4,477	4,494	4,625	4,832	5,203	5,327	5,461

**Court of Chancery - Estates
5 Year Projected Filings**



	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
5 Year Base	----	----	----	----	----	2,253	2,280	2,385	2,352	2,378	2,426	2,458	2,491	2,523	2,555
10 Year Base	2,091	2,198	2,242	2,301	2,265	2,253	2,280	2,385	2,352	2,378	2,418	2,444	2,470	2,496	2,522

Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source: Registers of Wills. Administrative Office of the Courts

Superior Court

Legal Authorization

The Constitution of Delaware, Article IV, Section 1, authorizes the Superior Court.

Court History

Superior Court's roots can be traced back more than 300 years to December 6, 1669 when John Binckson and two others were tried for treason for leading an insurrection against colonists loyal to England in favor of the King of Sweden.

The law courts, which represent today's Superior Court jurisdiction, go back as far as 1831 when they included Superior Court, which heard civil matters, the Court of General Sessions, which heard criminal matters, and the Court of Oyer and Terminer, which heard capital cases and consisted of all four law judges for the other two courts.

In 1951, the Court of Oyer and Terminer and the Court of General Sessions were abolished and their jurisdictions were combined in today's Superior Court. The presiding judge of Superior Court was renamed president judge. There were five Superior judges in 1951; there are nineteen today.

Geographic Organization

Sessions of Superior Court are held in each of the three counties at the county seat.

Legal Jurisdiction

Superior Court has statewide original jurisdiction over criminal and civil cases, except equity cases, over which the Court of Chancery has exclusive jurisdiction, and domestic relations matters which jurisdiction is vested with the Family Court. The Court's authority to award damages is not subject to a monetary maximum. The Court hears cases of personal injury, libel and slander, and contract claims. The Court also tries cases involving medical malpractice, legal malpractice, property cases involving mortgage foreclosures, mechanics' liens, condemnations, and appeals related to landlord-tenant disputes, and appeals from the Automobile Arbitration Board. The Court has exclusive jurisdiction over felonies and drug offenses (except most felonies and drug offenses involving minors and except possession of marijuana cases). Superior Court has jurisdiction

over involuntary commitments of the mentally ill to the Delaware State Hospital. The Court serves as an intermediate appellate court, hearing appeals on the record from the Court of Common Pleas, Family Court (adult criminal), and more than 50 administrative agencies including the Industrial Zoning and Adjustment Boards, and other quasi-judicial bodies. Appeals from Superior Court are argued on the record before the Supreme Court.

Judges

Superior Court judges are nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The judges are appointed for 12-year terms and must be learned in the law. There may be nineteen judges appointed to the Superior Court bench. One of the nineteen judges is appointed president judge with administrative responsibility for the Court. Three are appointed as resident judges and must reside in the county in which they are appointed. No more than a bare majority of the judges may be of one political party; the rest must be of the other major political party.

Support Personnel

Superior Court may appoint court reporters, law clerks, bailiffs, pre-sentence officers, a secretary for each judge, and other personnel.

An appointed prothonotary for each county serves as clerk of the Superior Court for the county. The prothonotary for each county serves as clerk of the Superior Court and is directly involved with the daily operations of the Court. The office handles the jury list and property liens, and is the custodian of costs and fees for the Court. It issues permits to carry deadly weapons, receives bail, deals with the release of incarcerated prisoners, issues certificates of notary public where applicable, issues certificates of election to elected officials, issues commitments to the State Hospital, and collects and distributes restitution monies as ordered by the Court in addition to numerous other duties. It is also charged with security, care, and custody of court exhibits. Elected sheriffs, one per county, also serve Superior Court.

SUPERIOR COURT

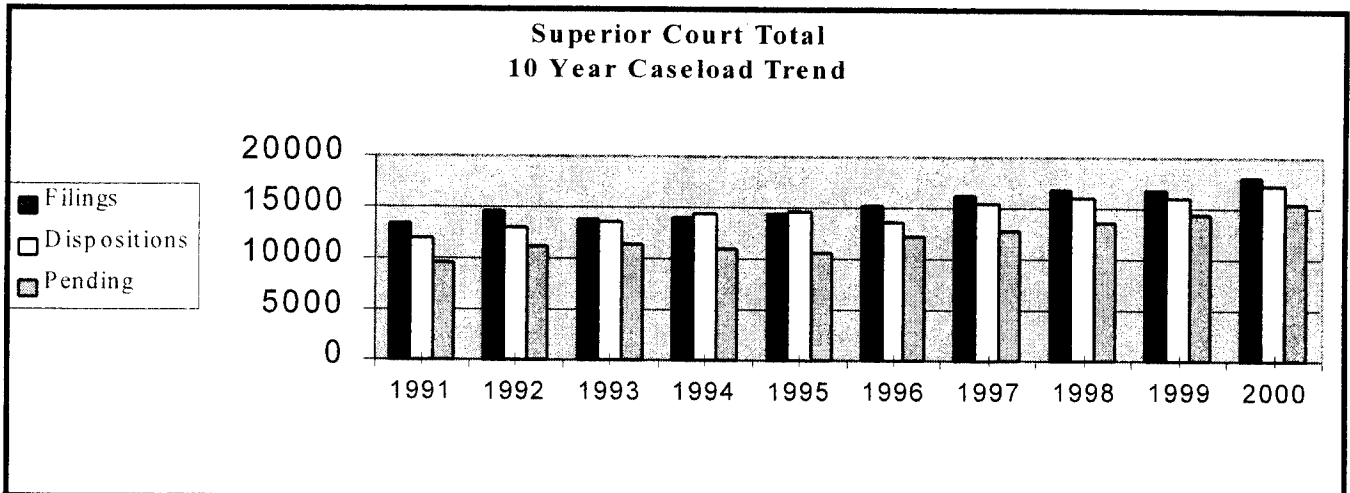
FISCAL YEAR 2000 CASELOAD SUMMARY						
	Pending* 6/30/99	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/00	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle	11,110	12,176	11,452	11,834	+724	+6.5%
Kent	1,874	3,014	3,104	1,784	-90	-4.8%
Sussex	1,514	2,857	2,666	1,705	+191	+12.6%
STATE	14,498	18,047	17,222	15,323	+825	+5.7%

COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 CASELOAD FILINGS				
	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	11,502	12,176	+674	+5.9%
Kent	2,604	3,014	+410	+15.7%
Sussex	2,760	2,857	+97	+3.5%
STATE	16,866	18,047	+1,181	+7.0%

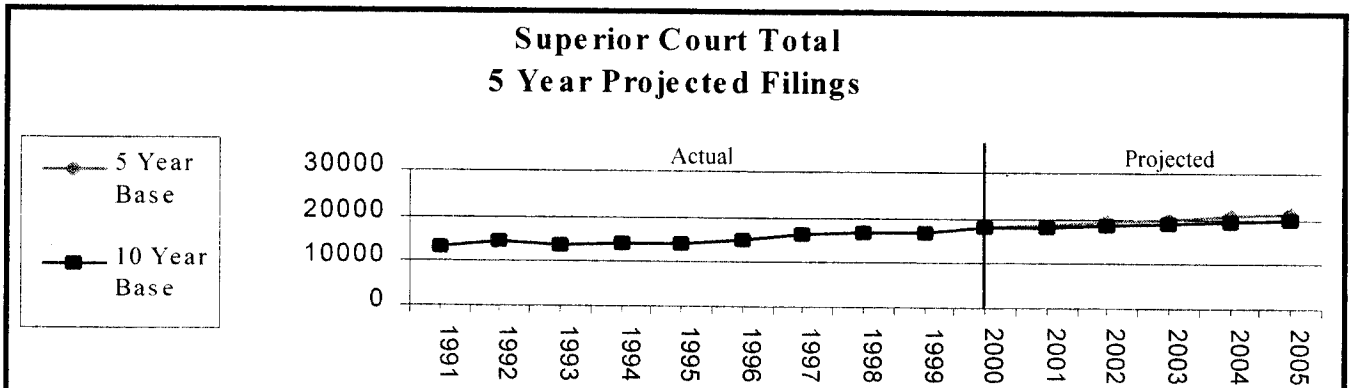
COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS				
	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	10,783	11,452	+669	+6.2%
Kent	2,639	3,104	+465	+17.6%
Sussex	2,648	2,666	+18	+0.7%
STATE	16,070	17,222	+1,152	+7.2%

*Amended from 1999 Annual Report.

Source: Court Administrator, Prothonotary's Offices, and Case Scheduling Office. Superior Court: Administrative Office of the Courts



	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999*	2000
Filings	13,344	14,533	13,808	14,037	14,328	15,105	16,103	16,749	16,866	18,047
Dispositions	12,084	12,998	13,540	14,422	14,608	13,595	15,456	15,946	16,070	17,222
Pending at End of Year	9,640	11,175	11,443	10,958	10,678	12,188	12,869	13,672	14,498	15,323



	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
5 Year Base	---	---	---	---	---	15,105	16,103	16,749	16,866	18,047	18,568	19,232	19,898	20,562	21,227
10 Year Base	13,344	14,533	13,808	14,037	14,328	15,105	16,103	16,749	16,866	18,047	17,969	18,457	18,943	19,430	19,918

*Pending amended from 1999 Annual Report.
Source: Administrative Office of the Courts

SUPERIOR COURT

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CRIMINAL CASES - CASELOAD SUMMARY *Number of Defendants*

	Pending 6/30/99	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/00	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle	3,828	5,009	4,488	4,349	+521	+13.6%
Kent	1,002	1,804	1,862	944	-58	-5.8%
Sussex	836	1,711	1,626	921	+85	+10.2%
STATE	5,666	8,524	7,976	6,214	+548	+9.7%

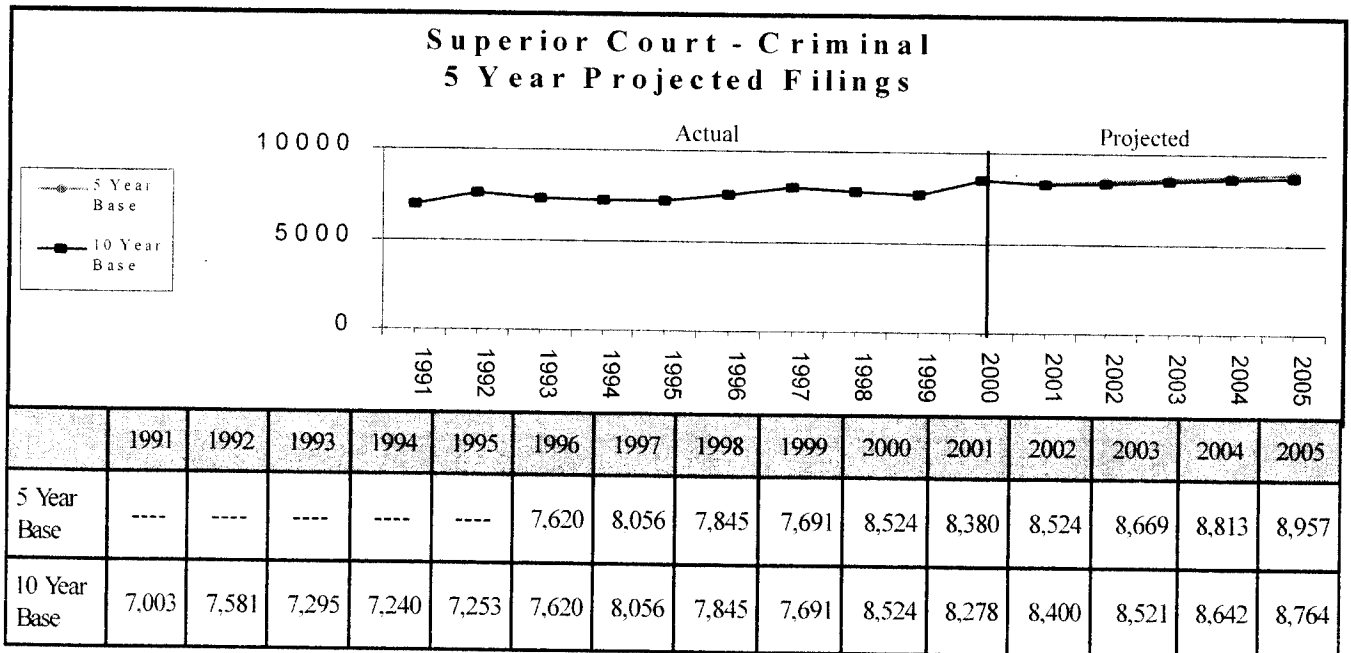
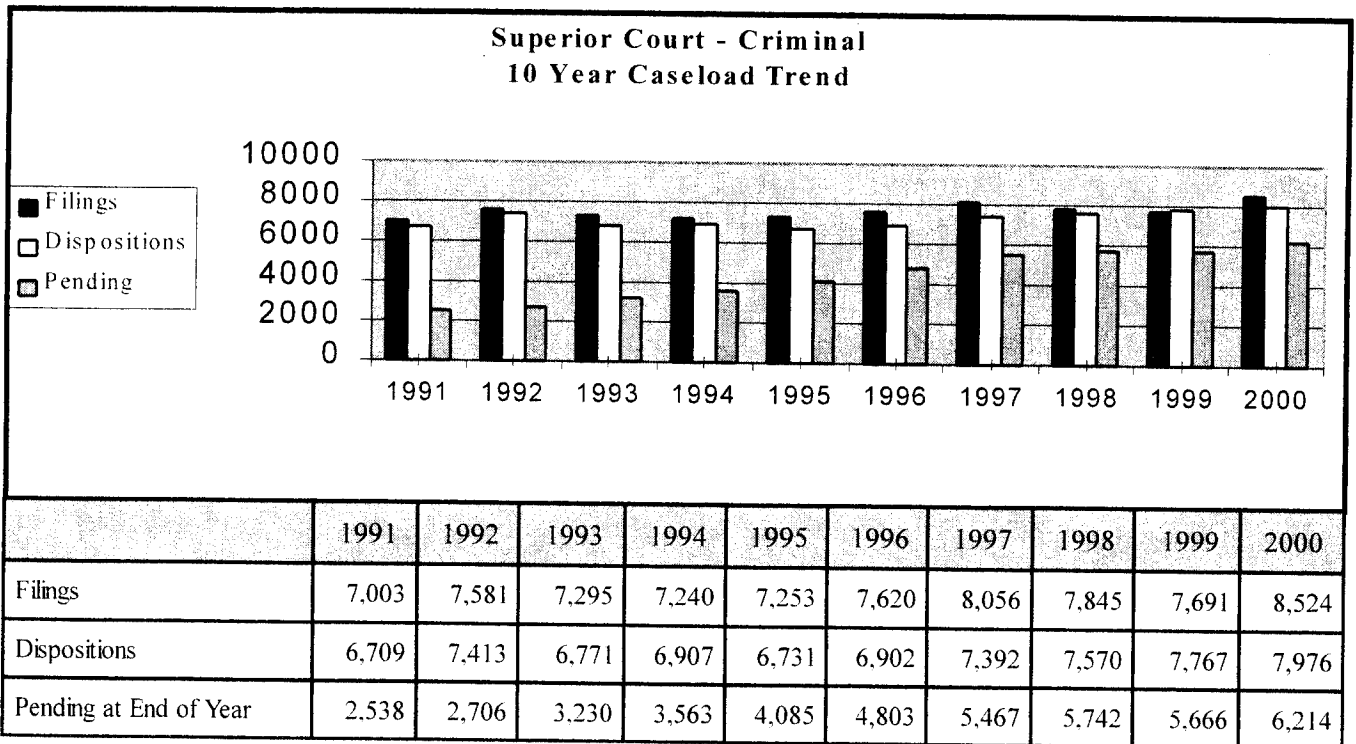
COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 - CRIMINAL CASES *CASELOAD FILINGS - Number of Defendants*

	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	4,370	5,009	+639	+14.6%
Kent	1,552	1,804	+252	+16.2%
Sussex	1,769	1,711	-58	-3.3%
STATE	7,691	8,524	+833	+10.8%

COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 - CRIMINAL CASES *CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS - Number of Defendants*

	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	4,445	4,488	+43	+1.0%
Kent	1,584	1,862	+278	+17.6%
Sussex	1,738	1,626	-112	-6.4%
STATE	7,767	7,976	+209	+2.7%

Source: Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Office, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts



Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source: Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Offices, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts

SUPERIOR COURT

Fiscal Year 2000 Criminal Cases Explanatory Notes

1. The unit of count in Superior Court criminal cases is the defendant. A defendant is defined as an individual named in an indictment, so that an individual named in three (3) indictments is counted as three (3) defendants. An individual with a consecutively-numbered series of informations, appeals, or transfers filed on the same day is counted as one defendant.
2. Informations are filed if defendants waive indictment.
3. Transfers were defendants brought before the Court of Common Pleas in New Castle County who requested jury trials before January 15, 1995. After January 15, 1995, the Court of Common Pleas began to hear jury trials.
4. Reinstatements represent defendants who have had their cases disposed of who are brought back before Superior Court for one of the following reasons:
 - mistrial
 - hung jury
 - motion for new trial granted
 - guilty plea withdrawn
 - lower court appeal reinstated after being dismissed
 - conviction overturned by Supreme Court; remanded to Superior Court for a new trial.
5. Severances are defendants indicted on multiple charges whose charges are severed to be tried separately.
6. Trial dispositions refer to the number of defendants whose charges were disposed of at trial rather than the number of trials. The date of disposition is the trial date. Should the decision be reserved, it will be the date when the opinion is handed down.
7. A defendant is counted as being disposed of by nolle prosequi only if all charges in an indictment or information or all charges transferred or appealed simultaneously are dropped. For example, if a defendant pleads guilty to one charge in an indictment, and other charges in the same indictment are then nol-prossed, that defendant is considered to have been disposed of by guilty plea on the date of the plea.
8. Defendants are not counted as disposed of by nolle prosequi if the nolle prosequi was filed to an original charge because the defendant entered a guilty plea to a new information. This is a further action in an existing case and is not counted as a separate filing, so the nolle prosequi is not the primary disposition.
9. Only nolle prosequis filed for defendants who were actually brought before Superior Court by indictment, information, appeal, transfer, reinstatement, or severance are counted in the total number of Superior Court dispositions. Nolle prosequis of unindicted defendants are listed separately because such defendants were never formally brought before the Superior Court.
10. Unindicted nolle prosequis are felony or drug defendants who were arrested and were bound over to Superior Court by a lower court either because probable cause was found or because the defendant waived preliminary hearing.
11. Remands are defendants who appealed or transferred their cases to Superior Court and had them remanded back to the lower court. Appeals Dismissed Records Remanded (ADRR) are cases in which an appeal to Superior Court has been dismissed with the record being remanded to the court from which it came. ADRRs and remands do not constitute the dispositions of all appeals that are filed; some are disposed of by trial de novo, plea, or nolle prosequi.
12. Participation in the First Offender Program is limited to defendants who are charged with driving under the influence or select drug possession charges and are first-time offenders. The defendants choose to enroll in a rehabilitation program and waive their right to a speedy trial in the process. The charge is dropped once the defendant satisfactorily completes the program and pays all fees.
13. A consolidation represents a single individual who is indicted separately on different charges but whose charges are consolidated to be tried together, thus an individual indicted in January and again in February, and who is counted as two filings, will receive one trial disposition and one consolidation disposition if the charges are tried together.
14. A triable criminal case is one in which there has been an indictment, information, or notice of appeal de novo filed with the Court. Defendants who have capias or Rule 9 warrants for summonses outstanding or who have been judged to be incompetent to stand trial are not triable and are not included in the triable pending cases.

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CRIMINAL CASES - CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS
FILINGS - Number of Defendants brought to Superior Court by:

	Indictment		Rule 9 Warrant		Information		Other*		Total	
New Castle	4,194	83.7%	470	9.4%	342	6.8%	3	0.1%	5,009	100.0%
Kent	1,578	87.5%	4	0.2%	209	11.6%	13	0.7%	1,804	100.0%
Sussex	466	27.2%	96	5.6%	1,142	66.7%	7	0.4%	1,711	100.0%
STATE	6,238	73.2%	570	6.7%	1,693	19.9%	23	0.3%	8,524	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CRIMINAL CASES - CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS
DISPOSITIONS - Number of Defendants disposed of by:

	Trial		Guilty Plea		Nolle Prosequi		Remand or Transfer		ADRR		Dismissal		FOP/Drug Court**		Consolidation		Total	
New Castle	107	2.4%	2,948	65.7%	779	17.4%	8	0.2%	0	0.0%	97	2.2%	297	6.6%	252	5.6%	4,488	100.0%
Kent	40	2.1%	1,348	72.4%	211	11.3%	19	1.0%	0	0.0%	6	0.3%	105	5.6%	133	7.1%	1,862	100.0%
Sussex	61	3.8%	1,061	65.3%	184	11.3%	7	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	126	7.7%	187	11.5%	1,626	100.0%
STATE	208	2.6%	5,357	67.2%	1,174	14.7%	34	0.4%	0	0.0%	103	1.3%	528	6.6%	572	7.2%	7,976	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CRIMINAL CASES - CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS
PENDING AT THE END OF YEAR

	Triable Pending		Non-Triable Pending		Total Pending	
New Castle	1,582	36.4%	2,767	63.6%	4,349	100.0%
Kent	283	30.0%	661	70.0%	944	100.0%
Sussex	296	32.1%	625	67.9%	921	100.0%
STATE	2,161	34.8%	4,053	65.2%	6,214	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CRIMINAL CASES - CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS
CHANGE IN PENDING

	Triable Pending	Non-Triable Pending	Total Pending
New Castle	-118	+639	+521
Kent	-84	+26	-58
Sussex	-8	+93	+85
STATE	-210	+758	+548

*Includes appeals, transfers, reinstatements and severances.

**FOP=First Offender Program

Source: Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Office, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts

SUPERIOR COURT

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CRIMINAL CASES - TYPES OF DISPOSITIONS TRIAL DISPOSITIONS - PART ONE - Number of Defendants disposed of by:

	Jury Trial		Non-Jury Trial		Totals		Guilty		Not Guilty*		No Final Disposition**		Totals		Average Length of Trial
New Castle	97	90.7%	10	9.3%	107	100.0%	81	75.7%	24	22.4%	2	1.9%	107	100.0%	2.55 days
Kent	39	97.5%	1	2.5%	40	100.0%	34	85.0%	4	10.0%	2	5.0%	40	100.0%	3.95 days
Sussex	55	90.2%	6	9.8%	61	100.0%	52	85.2%	8	13.1%	1	1.6%	61	100.0%	1.96 days
STATE	191	91.8%	17	8.2%	208	100.0%	167	80.3%	36	17.3%	5	2.4%	208	100.0%	2.67 days

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CRIMINAL CASES - TYPES OF DISPOSITIONS TRIAL DISPOSITIONS - PART TWO - Number of Defendants disposed of by:

	Jury Trial							Non-Jury Trial						Totals
	Guilty	Guilty LIO	Not Guilty	Pled Guilty at Trial	Nol Pros/Dismiss at Trial	Mistrial	Hung Jury	Guilty	Guilty LIO	Not Guilty	Nol Pros/Dismiss at Trial	Mistrial		
New Castle	68	0	16	7	4	1	1	6	0	4	0	0	107	
Kent	25	4	4	4	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	40	
Sussex	38	2	7	6	1	1	0	4	2	0	0	0	61	
STATE	131	6	27	17	5	4	1	11	2	4	0	0	208	

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CRIMINAL CASES - TYPES OF DISPOSITIONS NOLLE PROSEQUI DISPOSITIONS

	Number of Defendants with Nolle Prosequis by Special Condition		Number of Defendants with Nolle Prosequis by Merit		Total Number of Defendants Disposed of by Nolle Prosequis	
New Castle	481	61.7%	298	38.3%	779	100.0%
Kent	120	56.9%	91	43.1%	211	100.0%
Sussex	41	22.3%	143	77.7%	184	100.0%
STATE	642	54.7%	532	45.3%	1,174	100.0%

LIO=Lesser Included Offense

Nol Pros=Nolle Prosequi

*Included Dismissals at Trial and Nolle Prosequis at Trial

**Hung Juries and Mistrials

Source: Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Office. Superior Court: Administrative Office of the Courts

Explanatory Notes

1. Guilty Plea dispositions do not include pleas made during trials. They are included in the trial disposition totals.
2. "PG-Original" includes defendants who plead guilty to all charges or to the major charge of a multi-count indictment, appeal, transfer or reinstatement.
3. "PG-Lesser" includes defendants who pled guilty to a lesser included offense of the most serious charge, a less serious charge of a multi-count indictment or other filings, or a lesser included offense of a less serious charge of a multi-count or other filing.
4. A plea of nolo contendere is considered to be the equivalent of a guilty plea; e.g., a plea of nolo contendere to lesser included offense is counted with PG-Lesser.

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CRIMINAL CASES - TYPES OF DISPOSITIONS								
<i>GUILTY PLEA DISPOSITIONS - FELONY</i>								
	PG - Original		PG - Lesser		PG - Information/ New Information		Totals	
New Castle	1,595	88.8%	193	10.7%	8	0.4%	1,796	100.0%
Kent	681	84.6%	124	15.4%	0	0.0%	805	100.0%
Sussex	540	60.7%	345	38.8%	4	0.4%	889	100.0%
STATE	2,816	80.7%	662	19.0%	12	0.3%	3,490	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CRIMINAL CASES - TYPES OF DISPOSITIONS								
<i>GUILTY PLEA DISPOSITIONS - MISDEMEANOR</i>								
	PG - Original		PG - Lesser		PG - Information/ New Information		Totals	
New Castle	450	39.1%	701	60.9%	1	0.1%	1,152	100.0%
Kent	247	45.5%	296	54.5%	0	0.0%	543	100.0%
Sussex	168	97.7%	3	1.7%	1	0.6%	172	100.0%
STATE	865	46.3%	1,000	53.6%	2	0.1%	1,867	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CRIMINAL CASES - TYPES OF DISPOSITIONS								
<i>GUILTY PLEA DISPOSITIONS - TOTALS</i>								
	PG - Original		PG - Lesser		PG - Information/ New Information		Totals	
New Castle	2,045	69.4%	894	30.3%	9	0.3%	2,948	100.0%
Kent	928	68.8%	420	31.2%	0	0.0%	1,348	100.0%
Sussex	708	66.7%	348	32.8%	5	0.5%	1,061	100.0%
STATE	3,681	68.7%	1,662	31.0%	14	0.3%	5,357	100.0%

Source: Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Office. Superior Court: Administrative Office of the Courts

SUPERIOR COURT

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CRIMINAL CASELOAD AND DISPOSITION DATA DISPOSITIONS BY OFFENSE TYPE - NEW CASTLE COUNTY

	TG	TNG*	TNFD**	PLEA	NOLP	ADRR	DISM	REM/ TRN	IST OF	CONS	TOTAL
Murder 1st	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Murder 2nd	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Attempted Murder 1st	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Manslaughter	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Sexual Intercourse 1st & 2nd	3	2	0	3	3	0	0	1	0	3	15
Sexual Intercourse 3rd: Sex. Pen.	1	0	0	25	2	0	1	0	0	0	29
Sexual Contact	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Kidnap 1st	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Kidnap 2nd	0	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	5
Robbery 1st	6	0	0	36	16	0	9	0	0	4	71
Robbery 2nd	4	0	0	66	15	0	1	0	0	1	87
Assault 1st	0	0	0	7	4	0	1	0	0	0	12
Assault 2nd	3	5	0	97	22	0	5	0	0	3	135
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIMES	24	10	0	248	63	0	18	1	0	11	375
Trafficking Drugs	5	2	1	108	46	0	7	0	0	2	171
Drug Delivery	1	0	0	62	24	0	2	0	31	0	120
Possession with Intent to Deliver	4	0	1	115	52	0	6	0	46	1	225
Possession of Drugs	6	0	0	184	20	0	2	0	66	3	281
Other Drug-Felony	3	0	0	229	39	0	5	0	106	5	387
Other Drug-Misdemeanor	1	0	0	86	25	0	1	0	47	4	164
TOTAL DRUGS	20	2	2	784	206	0	23	0	296	15	1,348
Arson	0	0	0	14	1	0	0	0	0	0	15
Criminally Negligent Homicide	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Reckless Endangering	1	0	0	29	2	0	1	0	0	1	34
Vehicular Homicide	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Vehicular Assault	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	1	19
PDWDCF	8	2	0	21	54	0	26	0	0	20	131
Other Weapons	1	0	0	76	22	0	0	1	0	5	105
Theft	1	1	0	345	111	0	3	2	0	26	489
Receiving Stolen Property	1	0	0	129	24	0	4	0	0	6	164
Burglary	3	1	0	150	32	0	5	0	0	20	211
Forgery	0	1	0	187	53	0	1	0	0	14	256
Escape	2	0	0	100	6	0	0	0	0	2	110
Other Felony	15	2	0	340	110	0	12	2	0	44	525
DUI/CUI	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other Traffic	0	0	0	17	12	0	2	1	0	50	82
Non-Traffic Misdemeanor	5	4	0	487	83	0	2	1	1	37	620
TOTAL OTHER	37	12	0	1,916	510	0	56	7	1	226	2,765
GRAND TOTAL	81	24	2	2,948	779	0	97	8	297	252	4,488

*Trial not guilty includes dismissals at trials and nolle prosequis at trial.

**Trial no final disposition consists of hung juries and mistrials.

Source: Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Office, Superior Court: Administrative Office of the Courts

**FISCAL YEAR 2000 CRIMINAL CASELOAD AND DISPOSITION DATA
DISPOSITIONS BY OFFENSE TYPE - KENT COUNTY**

	TG	TNG*	TNFD**	PLEA	NOLP	ADRR	DISM	REM/ TRN	1ST OF	CONS	TOTAL
Murder 1st	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
Murder 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Attempted Murder 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Intercourse 1st & 2nd	2	1	0	3	0	0	1	4	0	2	13
Sexual Intercourse 3rd; Sex. Pen.	0	0	0	19	6	0	0	0	0	1	26
Sexual Contact	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Kidnap 1st	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Kidnap 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery 1st	1	0	0	25	1	0	0	3	0	3	33
Robbery 2nd	0	1	0	32	5	0	0	0	0	2	40
Assault 1st	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	2	7
Assault 2nd	0	0	0	40	7	0	0	2	0	0	49
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIMES	6	2	0	125	20	0	1	9	0	11	174
Trafficking Drugs	3	0	0	16	6	0	0	2	0	3	30
Drug Delivery	2	0	1	28	5	0	0	0	0	5	41
Possession with Intent to Deliver	2	0	0	33	8	0	0	0	2	0	45
Possession of Drugs	1	0	0	83	14	0	0	0	20	2	120
Other Drug-Felony	0	0	0	94	12	0	0	0	63	7	176
Other Drug-Misdemeanor	0	0	0	49	3	0	0	0	19	0	71
TOTAL DRUGS	8	0	1	303	48	0	0	2	104	17	483
Arson	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	1	0	3	11
Criminally Negligent Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reckless Endangering	0	0	0	15	3	0	0	0	0	1	19
Vehicular Homicide	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Vehicular Assault	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
PDWDCF	3	0	0	7	24	0	0	5	0	14	53
Other Weapons	1	0	0	40	6	0	0	0	0	1	48
Theft	0	0	0	148	23	0	1	0	0	12	184
Receiving Stolen Property	0	0	0	25	2	0	0	0	0	3	30
Burglary	2	0	0	91	27	0	1	0	0	10	131
Forgery	1	0	0	93	7	0	1	0	0	24	126
Escape	1	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Other Felony	6	2	1	234	41	0	2	1	0	26	313
DUI/CUI	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	5
Other Traffic	1	0	0	42	3	0	0	0	0	3	49
Non-Traffic Misdemeanor	5	0	0	202	3	0	0	0	0	8	218
TOTAL OTHER	20	2	1	920	143	0	5	8	1	105	1,205
GRAND TOTAL	34	4	2	1,348	211	0	6	19	105	133	1,862

*Trial not guilty includes dismissals at trials and nolle prosequis at trial.

**Trial no final disposition consists of hung juries and mistrials.

Source: Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Office. Superior Court: Administrative Office of the Courts

SUPERIOR COURT

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CRIMINAL CASELOAD AND DISPOSITION DATA DISPOSITIONS BY OFFENSE TYPE - SUSSEX COUNTY

	TG	TNG*	TNFD**	PLEA	NOLP	ADRR	DISM	REM/ TRN	1ST OF	CONS	TOTAL
Murder 1st	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Murder 2nd	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Attempted Murder 1st	3	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	7
Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Intercourse 1st & 2nd	3	2	0	25	3	0	0	1	0	0	34
Sexual Intercourse 3rd: Sex. Pen.	1	0	0	12	4	0	0	0	0	2	19
Sexual Contact	1	0	0	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	14
Kidnap 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Kidnap 2nd	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	4
Robbery 1st	3	0	0	27	3	0	0	0	0	13	46
Robbery 2nd	0	0	0	10	3	0	0	0	0	3	16
Assault 1st	0	0	0	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	10
Assault 2nd	2	0	0	76	12	0	0	0	0	2	92
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIMES	15	2	0	175	29	0	0	2	0	23	246
Trafficking Drugs	0	0	0	22	6	0	0	0	0	4	32
Drug Delivery	3	0	0	45	5	0	0	0	0	10	63
Possession with Intent to Deliver	3	0	0	56	6	0	0	0	4	2	71
Possession of Drugs	0	0	0	47	4	0	0	0	57	1	109
Other Drug-Felony	0	0	0	22	4	0	0	0	12	2	40
Other Drug-Misdemeanor	0	1	0	28	3	0	0	1	47	3	83
TOTAL DRUGS	6	1	0	220	28	0	0	1	120	22	398
Arson	1	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	7
Criminally Negligent Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reckless Endangering	0	0	0	17	3	0	0	0	0	1	21
Vehicular Homicide	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Vehicular Assault	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	7
PDWDCF	3	0	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	4	16
Other Weapons	2	0	0	35	14	0	0	0	0	8	59
Theft	6	1	0	105	31	0	0	0	1	20	164
Receiving Stolen Property	0	0	0	21	3	0	0	0	0	7	31
Burglary	5	0	0	114	16	0	0	0	0	28	163
Forgery	1	0	0	53	13	0	0	4	0	29	100
Escape	0	0	0	26	2	0	0	0	0	2	30
Other Felony	1	1	0	123	26	0	0	0	0	16	167
DUI/CUI	8	3	1	99	8	0	0	0	5	7	131
Other Traffic	1	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	11	25
Non-Traffic Misdemeanor	3	0	0	47	2	0	0	0	0	8	60
TOTAL OTHER	31	5	1	666	127	0	0	4	6	142	982
GRAND TOTAL	52	8	1	1,061	184	0	0	7	126	187	1,626

*Trial not guilty dismissals at trials and nolle prosequis at trial.

**Trial no final disposition includes hung juries and mistrials.

Source: Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Office, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CRIMINAL CASELOAD AND DISPOSITION DATA
DISPOSITIONS BY OFFENSE TYPE - STATE

	TG	TNG*	TNFD**	PLEA	NOLP	ADRR	DISM	REM/ TRN	1ST OF	CONS	TOTAL
Murder 1st	6	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	10
Murder 2nd	5	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Attempted Murder 1st	4	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	9
Manslaughter	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Sexual Intercourse 1st & 2nd	8	5	0	31	6	0	1	6	0	5	62
Sexual Intercourse 3rd; Sex. Pen.	2	0	0	56	12	0	1	0	0	3	74
Sexual Contact	1	0	0	15	1	0	0	0	0	0	17
Kidnap 1st	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	6
Kidnap 2nd	0	0	0	5	1	0	1	1	0	1	9
Robbery 1st	10	0	0	88	20	0	9	3	0	20	150
Robbery 2nd	4	1	0	108	23	0	1	0	0	6	143
Assault 1st	0	0	0	21	5	0	1	0	0	2	29
Assault 2nd	5	5	0	213	41	0	5	2	0	5	276
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIMES	45	14	0	548	112	0	19	12	0	45	795
Trafficking Drugs	8	2	1	146	58	0	7	2	0	9	233
Drug Delivery	6	0	1	135	34	0	2	0	31	15	224
Possession with Intent to Deliver	9	0	1	204	66	0	6	0	52	3	341
Possession of Drugs	7	0	0	314	38	0	2	0	143	6	510
Other Drug-Felony	3	0	0	345	55	0	5	0	181	14	603
Other Drug-Misdemeanor	1	1	0	163	31	0	1	1	113	7	318
TOTAL DRUGS	34	3	3	1,307	282	0	23	3	520	54	2,229
Arson	1	0	0	21	7	0	0	1	0	3	33
Criminally Negligent Homicide	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Reckless Endangering	1	0	0	61	8	0	1	0	0	3	74
Vehicular Homicide	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
Vehicular Assault	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	2	32
PDWD/CF	14	2	0	31	84	0	26	5	0	38	200
Other Weapons	4	0	0	151	42	0	0	1	0	14	212
Theft	7	2	0	598	165	0	4	2	1	58	837
Receiving Stolen Property	1	0	0	175	29	0	4	0	0	16	225
Burglary	10	1	0	355	75	0	6	0	0	58	505
Forgery	2	1	0	333	73	0	2	4	0	67	482
Escape	3	0	0	135	8	0	0	0	0	4	150
Other Felony	22	5	1	697	177	0	14	3	0	86	1,005
DUI/CUI	8	3	1	103	9	0	0	0	6	7	137
Other Traffic	2	0	0	72	15	0	2	1	0	64	156
Non-Traffic Misdemeanor	13	4	0	736	88	0	2	1	1	53	898
TOTAL OTHER	88	19	2	3,502	780	0	61	19	8	473	4,952
GRAND TOTAL	167	36	5	5,357	1,174	0	103	34	528	572	7,976

*Trial not guilty includes dismissals at trials and nolle prosequis at trial.

**Trial no final disposition consists of hung juries and mistrials.

Source: Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Office, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts

SUPERIOR COURT

Fiscal Year 2000 Criminal Cases Performance — Explanatory Notes

1. The Speedy Trial Directive of Chief Justice Andrew D. Christie, effective May 16, 1990, states that 90% of all criminal defendants brought before Superior Court (except murder in the first degree cases) should be disposed of within 120 days of arrest, 98% within 180 days of arrest, and 100% within 365 days of arrest.
2. The charts measure the average and median time intervals between arrest and disposition, and the average and median time intervals between indictment/information and disposition. Subtracting the figures for indictment/information to disposition from the figures for arrest to disposition might not determine the time from arrest to indictment/information exactly. This is because there may be a different number of cases being counted in the different categories (i.e., unindicted nolle prosequis.)
3. In measuring the elapsed time of defendants for the purposes of computing compliance with speedy trial directives or average elapsed time, Superior Court excludes the following time intervals:
 - a. For all capiases, the time between the date the capias is issued and the date the capias is executed.
 - b. For all Rule 9 Summonses and Rule 9 Warrants, the time between arrest and indictment/information, if any.
 - c. For all nolle prosequis, the time between the scheduled trial date and the actual filing date of the nolle prosequis.
 - d. For all mental examinations, the time between the date the examination is ordered and the receipt date for the results.
 - e. For all defendants deemed incompetent to stand trial, the period in which the defendants remain incompetent.

FISCAL YEAR 2000 - CRIMINAL CASES - PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

	Total Number of Defendants Disposed of	Average Time from Arrest to Disposition	Median Time from Arrest to Disposition	Average Time from Arrest/Indictment to Disposition	Median Time from Arrest/Indictment of Disposition
New Castle	4,488	170.6 days	121.5 days	135.8 days	92.4 days
Kent	1,862	147.1 days	120.7 days	96.8 days	75.3 days
Sussex	1,626	100.9 days	96.1 days	62.2 days	58.0 days
STATE	7,976	150.9 days	116.1 days	111.7 days	81.4 days

FISCAL YEAR 2000 - CRIMINAL CASES - PERFORMANCE SUMMARY COMPLIANCE WITH SPEEDY TRIAL MANDATE

	Total Number of Defendants Disposed of	No. Disposed of Within 120 Days of Arrest (90%)		No. Disposed of Within 180 Days of Arrest (98%)		No. Disposed of Within 365 Days of Arrest (100%)	
New Castle	4,488	2,283	50.9%	3,169	70.6%	4,060	90.5%
Kent	1,862	917	49.2%	1,414	75.9%	1,794	96.3%
Sussex	1,626	1,014	62.4%	1,463	90.0%	1,621	99.7%
STATE	7,976	4,214	52.8%	6,046	75.8%	7,475	93.7%

Source: Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Offices, Superior Court: Administrative Office of the Courts

FISCAL YEAR 1999-2000 CRIMINAL CASES - PERFORMANCE COMPARISON				
<i>AVERAGE TIME FROM ARREST TO DISPOSITION</i>				
	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	178.6 days	170.6 days	-8.1 days	-4.5%
Kent	184.0 days	147.1 days	-36.9 days	-20.0%
Sussex	93.2 days	100.9 days	+7.8 days	+8.3%
STATE	160.3 days	150.9 days	-9.4 days	-5.9%

FISCAL YEAR 1999-2000 CRIMINAL CASES - PERFORMANCE COMPARISON				
<i>MEDIAN TIME FROM ARREST TO DISPOSITION</i>				
	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	123.7 days	121.5 days	-2.2 days	-1.8%
Kent	150.0 days	120.7 days	-29.2 days	-19.5%
Sussex	86.3 days	96.1 days	+9.8 days	+11.4%
STATE	120.7 days	116.1 days	-4.5 days	-3.8%

FISCAL YEAR 1999-2000 CRIMINAL CASES - PERFORMANCE COMPARISON				
<i>AVERAGE TIME FROM INDICTMENT TO DISPOSITION</i>				
	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	144.2 days	150.9 days	+6.7 days	+4.6%
Kent	132.9 days	96.8 days	-36.1 days	-27.2 %
Sussex	59.0 days	62.2 days	+3.2 days	+5.4%
STATE	122.9 days	111.7 days	-11.2 days	-9.1%

FISCAL YEAR 1999-2000 CRIMINAL CASES - PERFORMANCE COMPARISON				
<i>MEDIAN TIME FROM INDICTMENT TO DISPOSITION</i>				
	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	97.4 days	92.4 days	-5.0 days	-5.1%
Kent	102.8 days	75.3 days	-27.5 days	-26.8%
Sussex	52.9 days	58.0 days	+5.0 days	+9.5%
STATE	88.6 days	81.4 days	-7.2 days	-8.1%

Source: Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Offices, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts

SUPERIOR COURT

Fiscal Year 2000 Civil Cases — Explanatory Notes

1. Complaints are suits for damages. During FY 2000, activity in the Complaints category included Complaints for Damages, Condemnations, Ejectments, Appeals from Justice of the Peace Courts and from Arbitration Panels, Declaratory Judgments, Foreign Judgments, Replevins, Foreign Attachments, Domestic Attachments, Interpleaders, Amicable Actions, Breach of Contract, Transfers and Removals from the Court of Chancery, Transfers and Removals from the Court of Common Pleas and Debt Actions.
2. Mechanic's Liens and Mortgages are property suits.
3. Involuntary Commitments are proceedings held to determine whether individuals shall be involuntarily committed as mentally ill. Because Delaware State Hospital, the State's facility for mentally ill patients is located in New Castle County, most Involuntary Commitment appeals are held in New Castle County. These actions are included in the Court's caseload.
4. Appeals are appeals on the record. This category includes appeals from administrative agencies, appeals from Family Court, appeals from the Court of Common Pleas and certioraris.
5. Miscellaneous includes all other cases.

FISCAL YEAR 2000 - CIVIL CASES CASELOAD SUMMARY						
	Pending* 6/30/99	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/00	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle	7,282	7,167	6,964	7,485	+203	+2.8%
Kent	872	1,210	1,242	840	-32	-3.7%
Sussex	678	1,146	1,040	784	+106	+15.6%
STATE	8,832	9,523	9,246	9,109	+277	+3.1%

COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 CIVIL CASES - TOTAL CASELOAD CASELOAD FILINGS				
	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	7,132	7,167	+35	+0.5%
Kent	1,052	1,210	+158	+15.0%
Sussex	991	1,146	+155	+15.6%
STATE	9,175	9,523	+348	+3.8%

COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 CIVIL CASES - TOTAL CASELOAD CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS				
	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	6,338	6,964	+626	+9.9%
Kent	1,055	1,242	+187	+17.7%
Sussex	910	1,040	+130	+14.3%
STATE	8,303	9,246	+943	+11.4%

*Amended from 1999 Statistical Report.

Source: Prothonotary's Offices, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CIVIL CASES - CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS												
FILINGS												
	Complaints		Mechanic's Liens and Mortgages		Appeals		Involuntary Commitments		Miscellaneous		Totals	
New Castle	3,509	49.0%	1,218	17.0%	161	2.2%	942	13.1%	1,337	18.7%	7,167	100.0%
Kent	559	46.2%	293	24.2%	37	3.1%	24	2.0%	297	24.5%	1,210	100.0%
Sussex	380	33.2%	339	29.6%	43	3.8%	46	4.0%	338	29.5%	1,146	100.0%
STATE	4,448	46.7%	1,850	19.4%	241	2.5%	1,012	10.6%	1,972	20.7%	9,523	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CIVIL CASES - CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS												
DISPOSITIONS												
	Complaints		Mechanic's Liens and Mortgages		Appeals		Involuntary Commitments		Miscellaneous		Totals	
New Castle	3,555	51.0%	1,114	16.0%	201	2.9%	687	9.9%	1,407	20.2%	6,964	100.0%
Kent	617	49.7%	286	23.0%	36	2.9%	23	1.9%	280	22.5%	1,242	100.0%
Sussex	370	35.6%	298	28.7%	31	3.0%	30	2.9%	311	29.9%	1,040	100.0%
STATE	4,542	49.1%	1,698	18.4%	268	2.9%	740	8.0%	1,998	21.6%	9,246	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CIVIL CASES - CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS												
PENDING AT END OF YEAR												
	Complaints		Mechanic's Liens and Mortgages		Appeals		Involuntary Commitments		Miscellaneous		Totals	
New Castle	5,278	70.5%	639	8.5%	96	1.3%	1,306	17.4%	166	2.2%	7,485	100.0%
Kent	571	68.0%	147	17.5%	24	2.9%	38	4.5%	60	7.1%	840	100.0%
Sussex	454	57.9%	174	22.2%	35	4.5%	53	6.8%	68	8.7%	784	100.0%
STATE	6,303	69.2%	960	10.5%	155	1.7%	1,397	15.3%	294	3.2%	9,109	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CIVIL CASES - CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS												
CHANGE IN PENDING												
	Complaints		Mechanic's Liens and Mortgages		Appeals		Involuntary Commitments		Miscellaneous		Totals	
New Castle		-46		+104		-40		+255		-70		+203
Kent		-58		+7		+1		+1		+17		-32
Sussex		+10		+41		+12		+16		+27		+106
STATE		-94		+152		-27		+272		-26		+277

Source: Prothonotary's Offices. Superior Court: Administrative Office of the Courts

SUPERIOR COURT

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CIVIL CASES - TYPES OF DISPOSITIONS COMPLAINTS DISPOSITIONS

	Trial Dispositions				Non-Trial Dispositions										Totals			
	Judgment for Plaintiff		Judgment for Defendant		Default Judgment for Plaintiff		Other Judgment for Plaintiff		Other Judgment for Defendant		Voluntary Dismissal		Court Dismissal				Other	
New Castle	36	1.0%	49	1.4%	147	4.1%	466	13.1%	65	1.8%	2,098	59.0%	604	17.0%	90	2.5%	3,555	100.0%
Kent	12	1.9%	11	1.8%	25	4.1%	67	10.9%	9	1.5%	388	62.9%	100	16.2%	5	0.8%	617	100.0%
Sussex	15	4.1%	4	1.1%	16	4.3%	55	14.9%	5	1.4%	234	63.2%	16	4.3%	25	6.8%	370	100.0%
STATE	63	1.4%	64	1.4%	188	4.1%	588	12.9%	79	1.7%	2,720	59.9%	720	15.9%	120	2.6%	4,542	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CIVIL CASES - TYPES OF DISPOSITIONS MECHANIC'S LIENS AND MORTGAGES DISPOSITIONS

	Trial Dispositions				Non-Trial Dispositions										Totals			
	Judgment for Plaintiff		Judgment for Defendant		Default Judgment for Plaintiff		Other Judgment for Plaintiff		Other Judgment for Defendant		Voluntary Dismissal		Court Dismissal				Other	
New Castle	2	0.2%	0	0.0%	704	63.2%	7	0.6%	2	0.2%	237	21.3%	152	13.6%	10	0.9%	1,114	100.0%
Kent	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	189	66.1%	4	1.4%	0	0.0%	41	14.3%	51	17.8%	0	0.0%	286	100.0%
Sussex	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	200	67.1%	10	3.4%	0	0.0%	59	19.8%	16	5.4%	12	4.0%	298	100.0%
STATE	4	0.2%	0	0.0%	1,093	64.4%	21	1.2%	2	0.1%	337	19.8%	219	12.9%	22	1.3%	1,698	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CIVIL CASES - TYPES OF DISPOSITIONS APPEALS DISPOSITIONS

	Affirmed		Reversed		Voluntary Dismissal		Court Dismissal		Remanded		Other		Totals	
New Castle	87	43.3%	8	4.0%	37	18.4%	48	23.9%	21	10.4%	0	0.0%	201	100.0%
Kent	16	44.4%	3	8.3%	5	13.9%	9	25.0%	1	2.8%	2	5.6%	36	100.0%
Sussex	9	29.0%	2	6.5%	14	45.2%	6	19.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	31	100.0%
STATE	112	41.8%	13	4.9%	56	20.9%	63	23.5%	22	8.2%	2	0.7%	268	100.0%

Source: Prothonotary's Offices. Superior Court: Administrative Office of the Courts

SUPERIOR COURT

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CIVIL CASES - TRIALS						
	Number of Jury Trials	Number of Non-Jury Trials	Number Special Jury Trials	Total Number of Trials	Number of Days	Average Trial Time
New Castle	97	22	1	120	371	3.09 days
Kent	17	2	1	20	72	3.60 days
Sussex	10	9	0	19	32	1.68 days
STATE	124	33	2	159	475	2.99 days

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CIVIL CASES - CALENDAR ACTIVITY												
	Cases Tried		Cases Settled or Dismissed		Cases Continued for Settlement		Cases Continued Due to Lack of Judge		Cases Continued at Request of Attorney		Total Cases Scheduled	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
New Castle	120	12.3%	525	54.0%	34	3.5%	10	1.0%	284	29.2%	973	100.0%
Kent	20	11.2%	93	52.0%	7	3.9%	11	6.1%	48	26.8%	179	100.0%
Sussex	19	12.0%	103	65.2%	5	3.2%	0	0.0%	31	19.6%	158	100.0%
STATE	159	12.1%	721	55.0%	46	3.5%	21	1.6%	363	27.7%	1,310	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CIVIL CASES PERFORMANCE SUMMARY						
	COMPLAINTS		MECHANIC'S LIENS AND MORTGAGES		APPEALS	
	Number of Dispositions	Average Time from Filing to Disposition	Number of Dispositions	Average Time from Filing to Disposition	Number of Dispositions	Average Time from Filing to Disposition
New Castle	3,555	442.7 days	1,114	186.7 days	201	277.4 days
Kent	617	463.3 days	286	337.3 days	36	300.3 days
Sussex	370	415.8 days	298	169.7 days	31	267.5 days
STATE	4,542	443.3 days	1,698	209.1 days	268	279.3 days

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CIVIL CASES PERFORMANCE SUMMARY						
	MISCELLANEOUS		INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS		TOTALS	
	Number of Dispositions	Average Time from Filing to Disposition	Number of Dispositions	Average Time from Filing to Disposition	Number of Dispositions	Average Time from Filing to Disposition
New Castle	1,407	65.6 days	687	304.3 days	6,964	307.1 days
Kent	280	83.1 days	23	352.7 days	1,242	341.8 days
Sussex	311	60.2 days	30	184.6 days	1,040	227.9 days
STATE	1,998	67.2 days	740	301.0 days	9,246	302.9 days

Source: Prothonotary's Offices, Superior Court: Administrative Office of the Courts

SUPERIOR COURT

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CIVIL CASES - PERFORMANCE BREAKDOWNS COMPLAINTS - METHOD - Number of Cases Disposed of by:

METHOD OF DISPOSITION												
	Trial		Arbitrator's Order		Default Judgment		Voluntary Dismissal		Other		Total	
New Castle	85	2.4%	529	14.9%	147	4.1%	2,098	59.0%	696	19.6%	3,555	100.0%
Kent	23	3.7%	70	11.3%	25	4.1%	388	62.9%	111	18.0%	617	100.0%
Sussex	19	5.1%	31	8.4%	16	4.3%	234	63.2%	70	18.9%	370	100.0%
STATE	127	2.8%	630	13.9%	188	4.1%	2,720	59.9%	877	19.3%	4,542	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CIVIL CASES - PERFORMANCE BREAKDOWNS COMPLAINTS - ELAPSED TIME - Number of Days From Filing to Disposition:

AVERAGE TIME FROM FILING TO DISPOSITION												
	Trial		Arbitrator's Order		Default Judgment		Voluntary Dismissal		Other		Total	
New Castle	824.5 days		351.3 days		197.2 days		426.2 days		567.1 days		442.7 days	
Kent	926.2 days		330.9 days		192.7 days		392.5 days		759.3 days		463.3 days	
Sussex	568.4 days		335.9 days		164.9 days		441.9 days		380.1 days		415.8 days	
STATE	804.6 days		348.2 days		193.8 days		422.7 days		576.5 days		443.3 days	

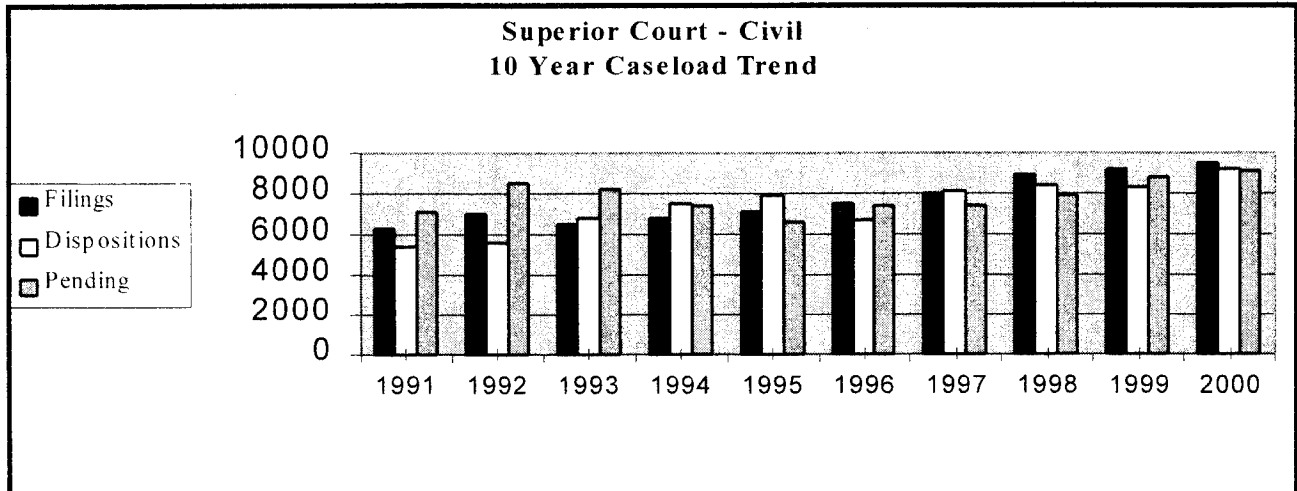
FISCAL YEAR 2000 CIVIL CASES - PERFORMANCE BREAKDOWNS MECHANIC'S LIENS AND MORTGAGES - METHOD - Number of Cases Disposed of by:

METHOD OF DISPOSITION												
	Trial		Arbitrator's Order		Default Judgment		Voluntary Dismissal		Other		Total	
New Castle	2	0.2%	8	0.7%	704	63.2%	237	21.3%	163	14.6%	1,114	100.0%
Kent	1	0.3%	2	0.7%	189	66.1%	41	14.3%	53	18.5%	286	100.0%
Sussex	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	200	67.1%	59	19.8%	38	12.8%	298	100.0%
STATE	4	0.2%	10	0.6%	1,093	64.4%	337	19.8%	254	15.0%	1,698	100.0%

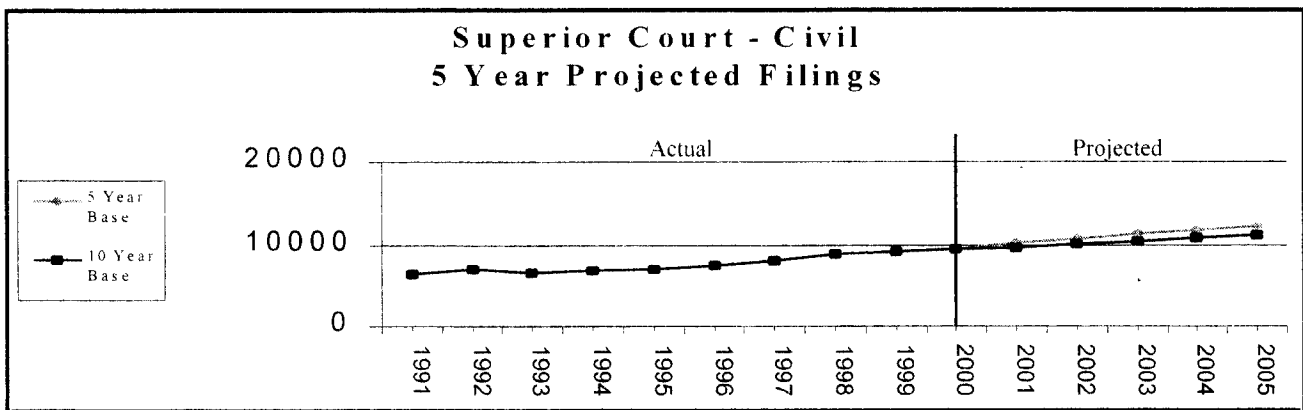
FISCAL YEAR 2000 CIVIL CASES - PERFORMANCE BREAKDOWNS MECHANIC'S LIENS AND MORTGAGES - ELAPSED TIME - Number of Days from Filing to Disposition:

AVERAGE TIME FROM FILING TO DISPOSITION												
	Trial		Arbitrator's Order		Default Judgment		Voluntary Dismissal		Other		Total	
New Castle	965.5 days		333.3 days		124.0 days		228.8 days		379.8 days		186.7 days	
Kent	603.0 days		191.5 days		175.7 days		419.5 days		850.5 days		337.3 days	
Sussex	986.0 days		---- days		116.5 days		225.2 days		342.0 days		169.7 days	
STATE	880.0 days		304.9 days		131.5 days		251.4 days		472.4 days		209.1 days	

Source: Prothonotary's Offices, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts



	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Filings	6,341	6,952	6,513	6,797	7,075	7,485	8,047	8,904	9,175	9,523
Dispositions	5,375	5,585	6,769	7,515	7,877	6,693	8,064	8,376	8,303	9,246
Pending at End of Year	7,102	8,469	8,213	7,395	6,593	7,385	7,402	7,930	8,832*	9,109



	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
5 Year Base	---	---	---	---	---	7,485	8,047	8,904	9,175	9,523	10,188	10,708	11,229	11,749	12,270
10 Year Base	6,341	6,952	6,513	6,797	7,075	7,485	8,047	8,904	9,175	9,523	9,691	10,057	10,422	10,788	11,154

*Pending amended from 1999 Statistical Report.
Source: Administrative Office of the Courts

SUPERIOR COURT

Fiscal Year 2000 Arbitration Cases — Explanatory Notes

1. Arbitration is compulsory for civil cases in which:
 - a. Trial is available
 - b. Monetary damages are sought, and
 - c. Non-monetary damages are insubstantial, and
 - d. Damages do not exceed \$100,000.
2. The President Judge of Superior Court or his designee assigns each arbitration case to an arbitrator who is appointed pursuant to the following guidelines:
 - a. The parties may request a specific arbiter by joint agreement.
 - b. If the parties fail to mutually agree upon an arbitrator of their choice, the Court provides a list of three (3) alternative arbitrators for review by the parties. The plaintiff(s) and the defendant(s) may each strike one alternative arbitrator, and the Court appoints the arbitrator from the remaining alternative arbitrators.
3. The arbitrator's decision is to be in the form of a written order. The order is to become a judgment of the Court unless a trial de novo is requested. Any party may request a trial de novo before Superior Court within 20 days following the arbitrator's order.

FISCAL YEAR 2000 - ARBITRATION CASES CASELOAD SUMMARY						
	Pending* 6/30/99	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/00	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle	3,450	3,301	3,123	3,628	+178	+5.2%
Kent	626	450	620	456	-170	-27.2%
Sussex	318	315	277	356	+38	+11.9%
STATE	4,394	4,066	4,020	4,440	+46	+1.0%

COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 - ARBITRATION CASELOAD CASELOAD FILINGS					
	1999	2000	Change	% Change	
New Castle	3,815	3,301	-514	-13.5%	
Kent	615	450	-165	-26.8%	
Sussex	305	315	+10	+3.3%	
STATE	4,735	4,066	-669	-14.1%	

COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 - ARBITRATION CASELOAD CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS					
	1999	2000	Change	% Change	
New Castle	3,435	3,123	-312	-9.1%	
Kent	595	620	+25	+4.2%	
Sussex	297	277	-20	-6.7%	
STATE	4,327	4,020	-307	-7.1%	

*Pending amended from 1999 Statistical Report.

Source: Arbitration Unit, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts

FISCAL YEAR 2000 - ARBITRATION CASELOAD CASELOAD FILINGS						
Cases Eligible for Arbitration*	Arbitration Cases Filed		Non-Arbitration Cases Filed		Total Filed	
New Castle	3,301	69.8%	1,426	30.2%	4,727	100.0%
Kent	450	52.8%	402	47.2%	852	100.0%
Sussex	315	43.8%	404	56.2%	719	100.0%
STATE	4,066	64.6%	2,232	35.4%	6,298	100.0%
All Civil Cases	Arbitration Cases Filed		Non-Arbitration Cases Filed		Total Filed	
New Castle	3,301	46.1%	3,866	53.9%	7,167	100.0%
Kent	450	37.2%	760	62.8%	1,210	100.0%
Sussex	315	27.5%	831	72.5%	1,146	100.0%
STATE	4,066	42.7%	5,457	57.3%	9,523	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 2000 - ARBITRATION CASELOAD CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS								
	Removed Before Hearing		Disposed by Arbitrator's Order		Requests for Trial De Novo		Total	
New Castle	1,838	58.9%	571	18.3%	714	22.9%	3,123	100.0%
Kent	381	61.5%	90	14.5%	149	24.0%	620	100.0%
Sussex	136	49.1%	38	13.7%	103	37.2%	277	100.0%
STATE	2,355	58.6%	699	17.4%	966	24.0%	4,020	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 2000 - ARBITRATION CASELOAD ARBITRATOR'S ORDERS						
	Disposed by Arbitrator's Order		Request for Trial De Novo		Total	
New Castle	571	44.4%	714	55.6%	1,285	100.0%
Kent	90	37.7%	149	62.3%	239	100.0%
Sussex	38	27.0%	103	73.0%	141	100.0%
STATE	699	42.0%	966	58.0%	1,665	100.0%

*Include complaints and mechanic's liens and mortgages.

Source: Arbitration Unit, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts

Family Court

Legal Authorization

The Family Court Act, Title 10, Chapter 9, Delaware Code, authorizes the Family Court.

Court History

The Family Court of the State of Delaware has its origin in the Juvenile Court for the city of Wilmington which was founded in 1911. A little over a decade later, in 1923, the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court for the city of Wilmington was extended to include New Castle County. In 1933, the Juvenile Court for Kent and Sussex Counties was created.

From the early 1930s, there was a campaign to establish a Family Court in the northernmost county, and this ideal was achieved in 1945 when the legislature created the Family Court for New Castle County, Delaware. In 1951, legislation was enacted to give the Juvenile Court for Kent and Sussex Counties jurisdiction over all family matters, and in early 1962, the name of the Juvenile Court for Kent and Sussex Counties was changed to the Family Court for Kent and Sussex counties.

As early as the 1950s, the concept of a statewide Family Court had been endorsed. The fruition of this concept was realized with the statutory authorization of the Family Court of the State of Delaware in 1971.

Geographic Organization

The Family Court is a unified Statewide court with branches in New Castle County at Wilmington, Kent County at Dover, and Sussex County at Georgetown.

Legal Jurisdiction

The Family Court has had conferred upon it by the General Assembly jurisdiction over juvenile delinquency, child neglect, dependency, child abuse, adult misdemeanor crimes against juveniles, child and spouse support, paternity of children, custody and visitation of children, adoptions, terminations of parental rights, divorces and annulments, property divisions, specific enforcement of separation agreements, guardianship over minors, imperiling the family relationship, orders of protection from abuse,

and intrafamily misdemeanor crimes.

The Family Court does not have jurisdiction over adults charged with felonies and does not have original jurisdiction over juveniles charged with first and second degree murder, rape, or kidnapping.

Cases are appealed to the Supreme Court with the exception of adult criminal cases which are appealed to the Superior Court.

Judges

Family Court is composed of 15 judges of equal judicial authority, one of whom is appointed by the Governor as chief judge and who is the chief administrative and executive officer for the Court. A bare majority of the judges must be of one major political party with the remainder of the other major political party.

The Governor nominates the judges, who must be confirmed by the Senate. The judges are appointed for 12-year terms. Judges must have been duly admitted to the practice of law before the Supreme Court of Delaware at least five years prior to appointment and must have a knowledge of the law and interest in and understanding of family and child problems. They shall not practice law during their tenure and may be reappointed.

Other Judicial Personnel

Family Court uses special masters and commissioners to hear specific types of cases. Special masters are appointed by the chief judge and have limited responsibilities. Commissioners are appointed for four-year terms by the Governor with the consent of the Senate. Commissioners and masters must be attorneys.

Support Personnel

The Family Court has a staff of more than 290 persons in addition to judicial officers. The Court has a court administrator, directors, clerks of court, clerks, secretaries, typists, accountants, judicial assistants, mediation/arbitration officers, intake officers, program coordinators and volunteers working in all areas of the Court.

FAMILY COURT

Fiscal Year 2000 Total Cases Workload Explanatory Notes

1. The unit of count in the Family Court adult criminal, juvenile delinquency, and civil cases is the filing.
2. A criminal or delinquency filing is defined as one incident filed against one individual. Each incident is counted separately, so that three (3) incidents brought before the Court on a single individual are counted as three (3) criminal or delinquency filings or multiple charges.
 - a. A single criminal or delinquency filing may be comprised of a single or multiple charges relating to a single incident.
 - b. A criminal filing is received by the Court in the form of an information or a complaint, and a delinquency filing is received by the Court in the form of a petition or a complaint.
3. A civil filing is defined as a single civil incident filed with Family Court. A civil incident is initiated by a petition. In the instance of a divorce, although the petition may contain multiple matters ancillary to the divorce, each person is counted as one filing.

FISCAL YEAR 2000 - TOTAL CASELOAD CASELOAD SUMMARY

	Pending 6/30/99	Filed	Disposed	Pending 6/30/00	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle	7,715	34,709	36,464	5,960	-1,755	-22.7%
Kent	1,880	10,687	10,294	2,273	+393	+20.9%
Sussex	2,980	11,880	11,757	3,103	+123	+4.1%
STATE	12,575	57,276	58,515	11,336	-1,239	-9.9%

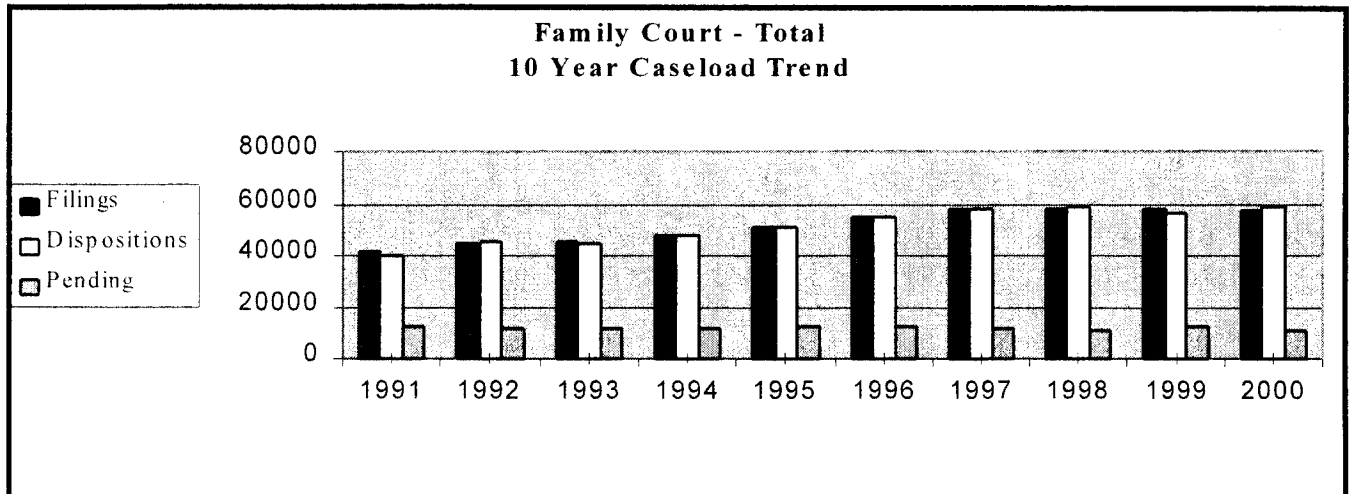
COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 - TOTAL CASES CASELOAD FILINGS

	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	34,817	34,709	-108	-0.3%
Kent	11,020	10,687	-333	-3.0%
Sussex	12,366	11,880	-486	-3.9%
STATE	58,203	57,276	-927	-1.6%

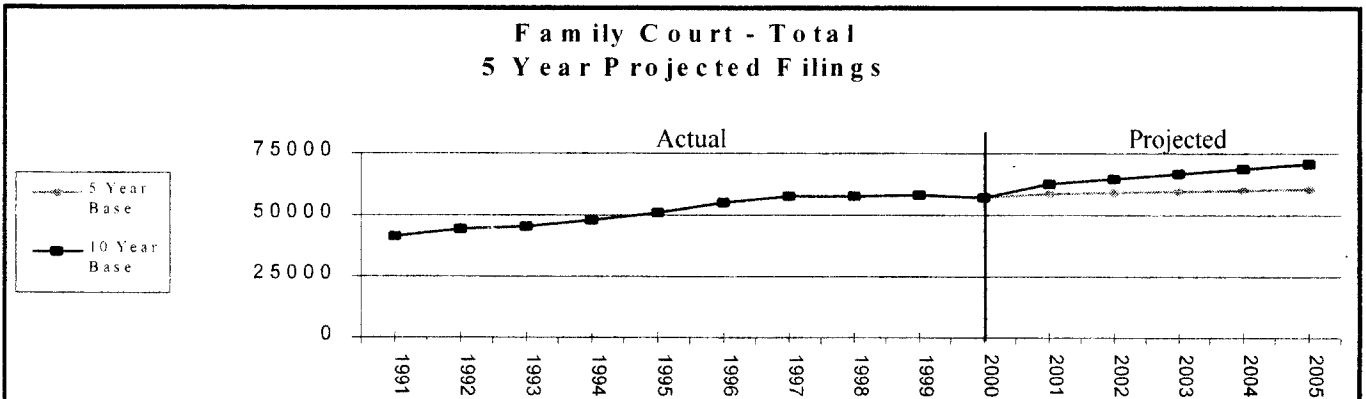
COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 - TOTAL CASES CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS

	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	32,738	36,464	+3,726	+11.4%
Kent	11,530	10,294	-1,236	-10.7%
Sussex	12,370	11,757	-613	-5.0%
STATE	56,638	58,515	+1,877	+3.3%

Source: Court Administrator, Family Court: Administrative Office of the Courts



	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Filings	41,498	44,500	45,156	48,210	51,187	54,947	57,907	57,811	58,203	57,276
Dispositions	40,101	45,755	44,668	48,090	51,031	54,906	58,108	58,850	56,638	58,515
Pending at End of Year	12,700	11,445	11,933	12,053	12,209	12,250	12,049	11,010	12,575	11,336



	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
5 Year Base	----	----	----	----	----	54,947	57,907	57,811	58,203	57,276	58,715	59,210	59,706	60,201	60,697
10 Year Base	41,498	44,500	45,156	48,210	51,187	54,947	57,907	57,811	58,203	57,276	62,851	64,876	66,900	68,925	70,949

Trend lines computed by linear regression.

Source: Court Administrator, Family Court: Administrative Office of the Courts

FAMILY COURT

FISCAL YEAR 2000 - ADULT CRIMINAL CASES CASELOAD SUMMARY

	Pending 6/30/99	Filed	Disposed	Pending 6/30/00	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle	748	2,535	2,633	650	-98	-13.1%
Kent	128	996	1,028	96	-32	-25.0%
Sussex	165	1,165	1,095	235	+70	+42.4%
STATE	1,041	4,696	4,756	981	-60	-5.8%

COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 - ADULT CRIMINAL CASES CASELOAD FILINGS

	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	2,434	2,535	+101	+4.1%
Kent	1,075	996	-79	-7.3%
Sussex	1,311	1,165	-146	-11.1%
STATE	4,820	4,696	-124	-2.6%

COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 - ADULT CRIMINAL CASES CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS

	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	2,247	2,633	+386	+17.2%
Kent	1,114	1,028	-86	-7.7%
Sussex	1,344	1,095	-249	-18.5%
STATE	4,705	4,756	+51	+1.1%

Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts

FAMILY COURT

FISCAL YEAR 2000 - JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES CASELOAD SUMMARY						
	Pending 6/30/99	Filed	Disposed	Pending 6/30/00	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle	1,254	7,837	7,834	1,257	+3	+0.2%
Kent	310	1,784	1,715	379	+69	+22.3%
Sussex	587	2,214	2,325	476	-111	-18.9%
STATE	2,151	11,835	11,874	2,112	-39	-1.8%

COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 - JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES CASELOAD FILINGS				
	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	7,887	7,837	-50	-0.6%
Kent	2,004	1,784	-220	-11.0%
Sussex	2,255	2,214	-41	-1.8%
STATE	12,146	11,835	-311	-2.6%

COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 - JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS				
	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	7,389	7,834	+445	+6.0%
Kent	2,157	1,715	-442	-20.5%
Sussex	2,261	2,325	+64	+2.8%
STATE	11,807	11,874	+67	+0.6%

Source: Court Administrator. Family Court: Administrative Office of the Courts

FAMILY COURT

FISCAL YEAR 2000 JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES - CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS CASELOAD FILINGS

	Felony		Misdemeanor		Traffic		TOTALS	
New Castle	1,712	21.8%	5,249	67.0%	876	11.2%	7,837	100.0%
Kent	363	20.3%	1,270	71.2%	151	8.5%	1,784	100.0%
Sussex	473	21.4%	1,473	66.5%	268	12.1%	2,214	100.0%
STATE	2,548	21.5%	7,992	67.5%	1,295	10.9%	11,835	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 2000 JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES - CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS

	Felony		Misdemeanor		Traffic		TOTALS	
New Castle	1,633	20.8%	5,355	68.4%	846	10.8%	7,834	100.0%
Kent	348	20.3%	1,201	70.0%	166	9.7%	1,715	100.0%
Sussex	484	20.8%	1,564	67.3%	277	11.9%	2,325	100.0%
STATE	2,465	20.8%	8,120	68.4%	1,289	10.9%	11,874	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 2000 JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES - CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS PENDING AT END OF YEAR

	Felony		Misdemeanor		Traffic		TOTALS	
New Castle	284	22.6%	870	69.2%	103	8.2%	1,257	100.0%
Kent	56	14.8%	315	83.1%	8	2.1%	379	100.0%
Sussex	68	14.3%	352	73.9%	56	11.8%	476	100.0%
STATE	408	19.3%	1,537	72.8%	167	7.9%	2,112	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 2000 - JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES - CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS CHANGE IN PENDING

	Felony		Misdemeanor		Traffic		TOTALS	
New Castle		+79		-106		+30		+3
Kent		+15		+69		-15		+69
Sussex		-11		-91		-9		-111
STATE		+83		-128		+6		-39

Source: Court Administrator, Family Court: Administrative Office of the Courts

FISCAL YEAR 2000 - CIVIL CASES CASELOAD SUMMARY						
	Pending 6/30/99	Filed	Disposed	Pending 6/30/00	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle	5,713	24,337	25,997	4,053	-1,660	-29.1%
Kent	1,442	7,907	7,551	1,798	+356	+24.7%
Sussex	2,228	8,501	8,337	2,392	+164	+7.4%
STATE	9,383	40,745	41,885	8,243	-1,140	-12.1%

COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 - CIVIL CASES CASELOAD FILINGS				
	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	24,496	24,337	-159	-0.6%
Kent	7,941	7,907	-34	-0.4%
Sussex	8,800	8,501	-299	-3.4%
STATE	41,237	40,745	-492	-1.2%

COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 - CIVIL CASES CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS				
	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	23,102	25,997	+2,895	+12.5%
Kent	8,259	7,551	-708	-8.6%
Sussex	8,765	8,337	-428	-4.9%
STATE	40,126	41,885	+1,759	+4.4%

Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts

FAMILY COURT

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CIVIL CASES - CASELOAD BREAKDOWN CASELOAD FILINGS

	Divorces and Annulments		RTSC/Other Civil Contempts		New Non-Support		Support Arrearages		Support Modifications		Custody	
New Castle	2,175	8.9%	855	3.5%	3,748	15.4%	5,038	20.7%	2,157	8.9%	2,592	10.7%
Kent	792	10.0%	212	2.7%	902	11.4%	1,768	22.4%	693	8.8%	838	10.6%
Sussex	722	8.5%	196	2.3%	1,492	17.6%	2,115	24.9%	646	7.6%	911	10.7%
STATE	3,689	9.1%	1,263	3.1%	6,142	15.1%	8,921	21.9%	3,496	8.6%	4,341	10.7%
	Visitation		Protection From Abuse		Adoptions		Terminations of Parental Rights		Miscellaneous		TOTALS	
New Castle	760	3.1%	1,897	7.8%	148	0.6%	141	0.6%	4,826	19.8%	24,337	100.0%
Kent	230	2.9%	665	8.4%	58	0.7%	40	0.5%	1,709	21.6%	7,907	100.0%
Sussex	254	3.0%	566	6.7%	31	0.4%	40	0.5%	1,528	18.0%	8,501	100.0%
STATE	1,244	3.1%	3,128	7.7%	237	0.6%	221	0.5%	8,063	19.8%	40,745	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CIVIL CASES - CASELOAD BREAKDOWN CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS

	Divorces and Annulments		RTSC/Other Civil Contempts		New Non-Support		Support Arrearages		Support Modifications		Custody	
New Castle	2,328	9.0%	877	3.4%	4,255	16.4%	5,499	21.2%	2,313	8.9%	2,606	10.0%
Kent	772	10.2%	173	2.3%	870	11.5%	1,585	21.0%	666	8.8%	816	10.8%
Sussex	661	7.9%	200	2.4%	1,476	17.7%	2,076	24.9%	655	7.9%	855	10.3%
STATE	3,761	9.0%	1,250	3.0%	6,601	15.8%	9,160	21.9%	3,634	8.7%	4,277	10.2%
	Visitation		Protection From Abuse		Adoptions		Terminations of Parental Rights		Miscellaneous		TOTALS	
New Castle	756	2.9%	1,946	7.5%	140	0.5%	118	0.5%	5,159	19.8%	25,997	100.0%
Kent	234	3.1%	680	9.0%	51	0.7%	20	0.3%	1,684	22.3%	7,551	100.0%
Sussex	252	3.0%	566	6.8%	31	0.4%	39	0.5%	1,526	18.3%	8,337	100.0%
STATE	1,242	3.0%	3,192	7.6%	222	0.5%	177	0.4%	8,369	20.0%	41,885	100.0%

RTSC=Rules to Show Cause

Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CIVIL CASES - CASELOAD BREAKDOWN												
PENDING AT END OF YEAR												
	Divorces and Annulments		RTSC/Other Civil Contempts		New Non-Support		Support Arrearages		Support Modifications		Custody	
New Castle	161	4.0%	227	5.6%	620	15.3%	835	20.6%	372	9.2%	852	21.0%
Kent	300	16.7%	53	2.9%	210	11.7%	452	25.1%	120	6.7%	219	12.2%
Sussex	334	14.0%	96	4.0%	330	13.8%	714	29.8%	144	6.0%	333	13.9%
STATE	795	9.6%	376	4.6%	1,160	14.1%	2,001	24.3%	636	7.7%	1,404	17.0%
	Visitation		Protection From Abuse		Adoptions		Terminations of Parental Rights		Miscellaneous		TOTALS	
New Castle	252	6.2%	74	1.8%	53	1.3%	104	2.6%	503	12.4%	4,053	100.0%
Kent	78	4.3%	10	0.6%	28	1.6%	59	3.3%	269	15.0%	1,798	100.0%
Sussex	105	4.4%	16	0.7%	13	0.5%	36	1.5%	271	11.3%	2,392	100.0%
STATE	435	5.3%	100	1.2%	94	1.1%	199	2.4%	1,043	12.7%	8,243	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 2000 CIVIL CASES - CASELOAD BREAKDOWN						
CHANGE IN PENDING						
	Divorces and Annulments	RTSC/Other Civil Contempts	New Non-Support	Support Arrearages	Support Modifications	Custody
New Castle	-153	-22	-507	-461	-156	-14
Kent	+20	+39	+32	+183	+27	+22
Sussex	+61	-4	+16	+39	-9	+56
STATE	-72	+13	-459	-239	-138	+64
	Visitation	Protection From Abuse	Adoptions	Terminations of Parental Rights	Miscellaneous	TOTALS
New Castle	+4	-49	+8	+23	-333	-1,660
Kent	-4	-15	+7	+20	+25	+356
Sussex	+2	0	0	+1	+2	+164
STATE	+2	-64	+15	+44	-306	-1,140

RTSC=Rules to Show Cause

Source: Court Administrator, Family Court, Administrative Office of the Courts

FAMILY COURT

Fiscal Year 2000 Arbitration Explanatory Notes

1. Arbitration is an informal proceeding in which a specially trained arbitration officer attempts to resolve juvenile delinquency cases involving minor charges.
2. The Attorney General's Office decides according to established criteria if a case should be prosecuted at a formal hearing or if it should be referred to the Arbitration Unit.
3. An arbitration officer determines if the case should be dismissed, sent to a formal hearing, or kept open. A case is kept open if a defendant is required to fulfill conditions set by the officer and agreed to by the defendants.

FISCAL YEAR 2000 - ARBITRATION CASES CASELOAD SUMMARY

	Pending 6/30/99	Filed	Disposed	Pending 6/30/00	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle	176	1,135	1,092	219	+43	+24.4%
Kent	0	401	401	0	0	0.0%
Sussex	10	571	551	30	+20	+200.0%
STATE	186	2,107	2,044	249	+63	+33.9%

COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 - ARBITRATION CASES CASELOAD FILINGS

	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	1,048	1,135	+87	+8.3%
Kent	626	401	-225	-35.9%
Sussex	769	571	-198	-25.7%
STATE	2,443	2,107	-336	-13.8%

COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 - ARBITRATION CASES CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS

	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	1,119	1,092	-27	-2.4%
Kent	631	401	-230	-36.5%
Sussex	812	551	-261	-32.1%
STATE	2,562	2,044	-518	-20.2%

Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts

Fiscal Year 2000 Mediation Explanatory Notes

1. Mediation is a pre-adjudicatory proceeding where a trained mediator attempts to assist the parties in reaching an agreement in disputes involving child custody, support, visitation, guardianships, imperiling family relations, and rules to show cause. Mediation is mandatory in child custody, visitation and support matters.
2. If the parties are unable to reach an agreement, the matter is scheduled for a hearing before a master or a judge.

FISCAL YEAR 2000 - MEDIATION CASES CASELOAD SUMMARY						
	Pending 6/30/99	Filed	Disposed	Pending 6/30/00	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle	98	9,694	9,690	102	+4	+4.1%
Kent	203	2,402	2,400	205	+2	+1.0%
Sussex	234	3,256	3,242	248	+14	+6.0%
STATE	535	15,352	15,332	555	+20	+3.7%

COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 - MEDIATION CASES CASELOAD FILINGS				
	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	8,298	9,694	+1,396	+16.8%
Kent	2,742	2,402	-340	-12.4%
Sussex	3,292	3,256	-36	-1.1%
STATE	14,332	15,352	+1,020	+7.1%

COMPARISON - FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 - MEDIATION CASES CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS				
	1999	2000	Change	% Change
New Castle	8,347	9,690	+1,343	+16.1%
Kent	2,873	2,400	-473	-16.5%
Sussex	3,202	3,242	+40	+1.2%
STATE	14,422	15,332	+910	+6.3%

Source: Court Administrator. Family Court. Administrative Office of the Courts